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THE TIMES

EEC leaders face threat to throw out budget

new directly-elected European Parliament been advised by its budget committee to throw out the entire budget for next year if the Nine do not offer "significant concessions" at the Dublin summit meeting which begins today. This unprecedented move could create financial chaos in the EEC.

Call for concessions to avert chaos

Michael Heseltine

Nov 28

European Parliament was by its budget committee to reject the entire EEC's 1980 budget if the Nine do not offer significant concessions

Dublin summit to the Parliament's views on spending

decision, taken by an overwhelming majority of the EEC's members on a move by the Socialists, reflects the Parliament's over the cavalcade treatment of last week to the budget proposals by the Council of Budget

should be unprecedented, legal for the Parliament to throw out the entire budget and it would create a chaos. The money to finance the Common Agricultural Policy would soon be, and furious farmers

advisers might see the in the Commission, for

is to follow the budget committee's advice, the Parliament would have to muster a the majority of its members. That would not be in the determination of new directly-elected members to file its motions of no confidence in the government.

Parliament is especially at the selection, less the Budget. Ministers

call for a cut in agricultural spending and for big rises in regional and other as well as energy

research projects, as in farm spending was, but it would have set a precedent by the Parliament's control of the budget into the sacrosanct agricultural

That is a prospect

alarmist countries like members of the budget committee made clear that what

they expect from EEC leaders in Dublin this week is a clear and concrete commitment to rein back on agricultural expenditure, which at present consumes 75 per cent of all Community funds.

A forecast of the chaos the Parliament could cause has been given already by its delay in approving a supplementary budget for 1979 to cover extra agricultural costs arising out of this year's EEC farm price settlement.

The customs authorities in Hamburg have already run out of money to pay German traders' export subsidies, and the Bonn Government has refused to help. Other members states are drawing on national funds to meet claims from farm traders or are raising loans to do so.

The European Commission announced today that under EEC rules it cannot begin making any advance payments out of the 1980 budget before December 10 at the earliest. Even that possibility would disappear if the Parliament refused to adopt next year's budget.

It is certain that member states will expect any increase they have to pay on loans to meet the shortfall to be charged to the Community budget, further exacerbating the Community's financial problems.

One Political Editor writes: Mrs Thatcher sets forth tomorrow to do battle in Dublin with her fellow EEC heads of government to try to "get back Britain's bottom". This is the way Labour MPs have been obviously going on in an effort to eliminate the pending £1,000m deficit in Britain's EEC budget payments.

It is fair to say that, while Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet colleagues are impressed by the Prime Minister's all-or-nothing attitude, some have private doubts at the wisdom of expressing things in such uncompromising terms.

Castles, p. 10

Castles, p. 10

Higher tax threatened if pay rises continue

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Increased taxation in next year's budget was the alternative that the country would have to face if public sector spending and pay settlements continued uncontrolled at high levels. This warning came from Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the Commons yesterday when he opened a debate on the Government's economic policies.

He said that if the private sector was not to face an excessively high tax burden, public spending must be held firmly under control.

In the first important economic debate since Sir Geoffrey's budget in June, the Chancellor emphasised that there were no reasonable or realistic alternatives to the policies that the Government was pursuing.

The tone of the Chancellor's words was in stark contrast to the budget豪語 when he was giving in the new Government's tax-cutting indications that he could be succeeded in budgets still to come. Indeed, speech room committee chair he was in the opposite course, there was little to choose between the gloomy predictions, at least the short term, coming from the two opposing front benches.

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Castles, p. 10

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Knife scuffle in Kennedy office suite

From David Cross

Washington, Nov 28

Senator Edward Kennedy, two of whose brothers were killed by assassins, escaped unscathed today when a woman with a knife scolded with secret service agents guarding him in his office suite on Capitol Hill.

There was a scuffle when she was interrupted and one of the secret service agents was stabbbed by the knife. The woman was arrested.

Parliamentary report, p. 8

Castles, p. 10

HOME NEWS

TUC refuses to make nominations to new NEB and endorses regional boards withdrawalBy Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor

The TUC is to undertake a wide-ranging review of its tripartite consultative links with the Government and the CBI in the wake of the National Enterprise Board resignations affair.

Union leaders will make a "very vigorous" protest next Wednesday at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council over Sir Keith Joseph's handling of the future of Rolls-Royce.

After refusing the minister's request to make nominations to new NEB, the TUC General Council yesterday endorsed the decision of its "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, to withdraw union nominees from the northwest and north-east regional boards.

There is some pressure for the unions to go further and pull out of the NEBC, its 39 working parties and other joint bodies on which the TUC is represented. But Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, made clear that there would be no precipitate move in that direction.

He said after yesterday's general council meeting that the unions would "pursue very vigorously" their view about the NEB at the talks next week with ministers and the CBI. The

TUC's influential economic committee will then review the situation on December 12.

But it is unlikely that the arguments for withdrawal from the consultative machinery will win the day. Union leaders point to reports already in train from the sector working parties with the severest.

Mr Murray also dismissed recent ministerial arguments that big pay settlements were forcing up inflation. "What we are clear about is that attempts are being made to ascribe all the misfortunes of the economy to developments in pay are designed in mislead and obscure the real causes.

"The real causes lie in the Budget and the Government policies that have succeeded.

But we are not surprised by the Government trying to use the unions as a scapegoat. This is nothing new in our experience."

He talks with Mr James Prior, the Employment Secretary, today, the TUC's employment policy and organization committee will express "total opposition" to the Government's industrial relations legislative proposals.

Union leaders have been called to a conference at Congress House on January 22 to discuss plans for a campaign against the new laws. The Bill is to be published in about a week.

Clash shuts citizens' aid bureau

By David Nicholson-Lord

A citizens' advice bureau at Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, has been closed this week after a year-long controversy over the running of its affairs, culminating in the resignation of its officers and the refusal of further grant aid by local councils.

The closure came after its expulsion last week from membership of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive committee. It is thought almost certain that the men will give their leaders the 55 per cent majority required to call a national strike "if necessary" to win an improved offer.

The closing stages of the ballot campaign were yesterday marked by fresh propaganda initiatives from both sides. Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the NUCB, predicted that a settlement of 25 per cent already declared acceptable by NUM leaders would put 15,000 jobs at risk over a period of years because the steel and electricity industries would turn to imported coal.

In Yorkshire, the biggest coalfield, where the votes of 65,000 men may determine the outcome, miners were urged in a special edition of their local union paper not to settle for "less than the price of a decent pair of shoes".

Miners expect new pay talks after ballot

By Our Labour Editor

The National Coal Board has been given a hint that miners' leaders will expect an early resumption of negotiations over the assumption that tomorrow's secret pithead ballot will support union rejection of the "final" 20 per cent wage offer.

With only a few areas opposing the recommendation of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive committee, it is thought almost certain that the men will give their leaders the 55 per cent majority required to call a national strike "if necessary" to win an improved offer.

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Provincial Building Society Notice to Investing members and existing and prospective borrowing members**Provincial announce new interest rates.****New Investment Rates from 1st December 1979**

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice to investing members that the rates of interest paid in all departments will be increased by 1.75% per annum with effect from 1st December 1979. The differentials on existing Term Shares will remain unaltered. On and after this date new investment monies will be accepted at the following rates:

	Interest rate (basic rate income tax paid 30%)	Gross equivalent	Commission percentage above the variable Paid-Up Share rate
Paid-Up Shares	10.30%	15.00%	
Regular Saving Shares	11.75%	16.75%	
High Yield Shares (2 year term)	11.00%	15.75%	0.50%
2 Year Term	11.50%	16.45%	1.00%
3 Year Term	12.00%	17.14%	1.50%
4 Year Term	12.50%	17.85%	2.00%
Monthly Income Shares (current issue)	10.30%	15.00%	0.50%
1 Month notice	11.00%	15.71%	
2 Year Term	11.50%	16.43%	
3 Year Term	12.00%	17.14%	
4 Year Term	12.50%	17.85%	
5 Year Term	12.50%	17.85%	
Holiday Savings Account	11.00%	15.75%	
Ordinary Deposits	10.30%	15.00%	

Increased Mortgage Rates

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice that the rate of interest applicable to outstanding offers of mortgage is to be increased by 3.25% with effect from 1st December 1979. This notice cancels the previous notice which specified an increase of 0.75%.

Notice is also given that the rate of interest applicable to the Society's various classes of mort-

gage accounts is to be increased by 2.50% with effect from 1st January 1980. The increase specified in this notice is in addition to the increase of 0.75% previously advertised and effective from 1st January 1980.

Where a mortgagee specifies a period of notice before an increase is effective that period will commence on 1st December 1979.

The new rate of interest and revised repayment figure applicable to an existing mortgage will be notified in each borrower's annual statement of account.

In Option Mortgage cases the appropriate subsidy will apply.

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Over 200 branches throughout the UK

Ministers attack 'mindless' marchersBy Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Ministers responsible for local authority spending yesterday joined in criticism of the protest against cuts in Government expenditure.

Mr Tom King, Minister of State for Local Government and Environmental Services, complained of the "mindless militancy" of the marchers in the protest.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secre-

tary of State for the Environment, viewed the protest so seriously that he issued a statement: "Let us be clear what today's march is about: It is to maintain levels of public expenditure we cannot afford. It is to avoid the consequences of last winter's pay settlements. It is to support an explosion in the rates."

It is bumbum for those who imposed such suffering last winter to march now in alleged support for the very people upon whom they imposed that suffering."

Mr King, addressing an Institute of Management Services' conference in London, acknowledged that among the proposals were some that concerned, frightened, people who saw in the uncertain times ahead the need to band together to protect themselves from the cold wind of economy.

There were also politically motivated, deliberately provocative people. "Positive proposals are not found by marching in the streets. I accept that what we are asking for will cause some real problems for local authorities."

"But solutions do not lie in protests which ignore the country's difficulties. They lie in a constructive approach and in sensible action. Shouting is no way to give the public a fair deal. A constructive approach, not a mindless march; that is what we need."

Mr King argued that there was real scope for savings in the cost of local government, mainly by natural wastage of staff.

The Department of the Environment is beginning to drum home the message that by filling only one in four vacancies the savings can be made.

Mr Derek dislocated on BBC Radio programme Today, a 25 per cent increase in basic rates would create "very serious market difficulties" for the industry's two biggest customers, steel and electricity generation.

They would start coal imports on a substantial scale.

There would be 15,000 jobs at risk over a period of years because we just could not sell the coal", he added. Jobs would be lost in the seasonal coalfields: Scotland, South Wales, Durham and Northumberland, and Kent.

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the NUM, discounted the board's view that £50m of business was at risk. "I do not accept the figures at all", he said.

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There would be 15,000 jobs at risk over a period of years because we just could not sell the coal", he added. Jobs would be lost in the seasonal coalfields: Scotland, South Wales, Durham and Northumberland, and Kent.

The minister hoped there would be more flexibility among staff. "If we do not get flexibility, the cuts will be worse. If teachers are not prepared to be moved around or redeployed to take account of teacher-pupil ratios, for example, schools will suffer, and it could mean the end for some village schools."



Mr. Eric Heffer at Central Hall yesterday.

Anarchists in brawl at Labour rally

By Craig Seton

More than 50,000 people took part in a Labour Party rally in London yesterday to oppose the Conservative government's cuts.

The rally, which started in Hyde Park, was thought to be the biggest organised by the Labour Party since the earlier days of the previous Conservative Government.

It was intended to show that the party had got over its election defeat and was opposing the Government with renewed vigour.

The organisers had expected 40,000 people, but Scotland Yard's estimate was that 50,000 people had taken part.

The banner-waving marchers included Labour supporters from all over Britain and thousands of trade unionists led by miners' brass bands. Members of the Shadow Cabinet and union leaders were at the head of the march. Blindfolded other handicapped people took part.

A fight broke out at the rear of the hall, which held 2,000 people, and continued for several minutes before the hecklers marched out as police arrived. No arrests were made.

Mr Callaghan, who had been heckled by a mixture of boos and cheers, was heckled by members of extreme left-wing groups throughout his speech.

The route from Hyde Park to the Embankment was lined by thousands of police.

The march was preceded by a large delegation of several leading Labour MPs who called for a new effort to replace the Conservative Government.

Price rises were already running at twice the level in the original task grant. The cost of the valued-added tax increases have been a year.

Vote for union plan would close Linwood

From Ronald Faux
Car workers at the Talbot plant at Linwood, Scotland, will decide today whether to take industrial action when the first of 1,250 redundancies are enforced at the factory next month.

The 6,500-hourly-paid workers at Linwood, now owned by Peugeot Circuit of France, meet under a warning from management that the plant could close permanently if the mass meeting decides on any form of industrial action.

In a private letter delivered to the houses of each of the workers, Mr Stanley Dawson, manufacturing director at Linwood, said it was understood that the joint shop stewards' recommendation would be for the workers to reject the company's recovery plan, which ends the night shift.

The letter said: "In light of the developments it is my duty to inform you that a vote by our employees in favour of the joint shop stewards' recommendation will result in an early decision being taken on whether or not to continue the Linwood manufacturing operation."

The shop stewards' alternative of a work-sharing scheme and a cut in overtime, the management say, would be so

costly and inefficient that it would be impossible for the plant to pay its way. That would immediately put the plant at risk.

Closure would be a critical blow to the west of Scotland where contraction in the engineering industry in recent months had been severe.

It would also endanger some 14,000 jobs at Tayside, the engine and gearbox plant, which would be particularly vulnerable.

Mr John Carty, convenor of shop stewards at Linwood, yesterday said that the shop would be asked to vote for an alternative. He was asked about the future of the plant, but the stewards recommended that the company's recovery plan, which ends the night shift.

He did not think the shop would end the night shift because of the company's warning, which, said, had been heavily handled. Ford workers accepted a union leaders' yesterday resolution to vote to continue the Linwood manufacturing operation.

The shop stewards' alternative of a work-sharing scheme and a cut in overtime, the management say, would be so

Universities pay grant up by £31m

By Our Education Correspondent

Universities are to receive an extra £185.5m from the Government to take account of pay settlements in the current financial year. Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The extra, which started in October, was thought to be the biggest organised by the Labour Party since the earlier days of the previous Conservative Government.

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Arts Council advisory subcommittees to be cut in reorganization

By Martin Huckerby

The Arts Council yesterday decided to abolish nearly two thirds of its advisory subcommittees as part of a reorganization aimed at increasing efficiency and saving money.

In a move that seems certain to be criticized by those who feel they are losing a voice in the council's decisions, it was agreed to "streamline" the operations of the council, cutting the subcommittees of 10 of the council's main advisory panels from 21 to seven.

As a result the number of outsiders on council committees, most of whom are experts in particular fields or representatives of arts organizations, will be reduced by about half.

The work of the subcommittees will be taken over by the main panels, but necessarily much of the preliminary work, such as the sifting of applications for grants, will have to be done by the council's officials, thus giving them more control at present.

Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary-general, said yesterday that the decisions implemented the recommendations of a working party set up in 1978. Many other changes have been agreed and they will be made public when the working party's report is available next month.

The composition of the main panels will be altered to ensure that the subjects covered

RAF 'needs more fighters and quickly'

By Henry Starhope

Defence Correspondent

The RAF needs more fighters, and it needs them quickly, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham, Chief of the Air Staff, said yesterday. But even if it had the money, no suitable new aircraft were available, and given the recent manpower crisis it would be difficult to find the pilots.

He confirmed the RAF's stopgap measures to arm a number of Hawk training aircraft with Sidewinder missiles and to bring into service an extra squadron of Lightnings "still a very useful fighter".

In the medium term the Air Staff proposed to run on the present Phantoms for longer than originally intended, and in the long term to obtain an additional three fighter squadrons.

That is understood to mean an increased order for the Tornado air defence variant which Sir Michael said is already showing signs of fulfilling RAF expectations of a first-class aircraft.

Meanwhile, the Tornado strike variant was rolling off the production lines, and instructors were due to start work on it next year in preparation for the opening of a joint Anglo-Italian training base at RAF Cosford.

Sir Michael, speaking to the Air Public Relations Association, also referred to the successful formation of three reserve RAF Regiment squadrons for the security of RAF airfields at Lossiemouth, Scampton and Honington.

RAF had provided encouragement to expand the scheme and to make greater use of resources and regularity. It is understood that the RAF is considering forming reserve squadrons with Rapier anti-aircraft missiles.

Sir Michael also reported significant progress in resolving the RAF's manpower crisis of the past few years. The Government's attitude to defence had had a heartening effect on morale, and the tide of men leaving the service was beginning to slacken.

Rerouting was buoyant, too, although the national demand for qualified engineers had been reflected in the RAF.

The costs of running the council's research programmes have increased by more than £2m beyond those expected when the cash limit was set for its expenditure", Dr Riley said.

Dr Riley said: "We are not intending to close any institutes, but to reduce specific activities in them". Recruitment would cease except for

Agricultural research to lose 300 jobs

By Our Agricultural

Three hundred jobs in the Government's agricultural research service are to be lost because of cuts in public spending. Dr Ralph Riley, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, said in London yesterday. "We hope to achieve this without causing redundancies," he said.

That represents a cut of 6 per cent and will be spread over 22 research stations financed wholly or partly by the council. The council's budget was to be cut by £1.8m or 61 per cent in real terms, equal to the cost of running one station for a year.

Dr Riley said: "We are not intending to close any institutes, but to reduce specific activities in them". Recruitment would cease except for

jobs connected with safety or those essential for the survival of research. There will be fewer jobs for those entering the scientific professions.

Most of the council's cash came from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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Save The Grange: Those interested in the future of The Grange, Northington, Hampshire, have until tomorrow to submit their views to the Department of the Environment.

The huge neoclassical mansion was saved from demolition in 1974, largely because of a telegram from the Council of Europe to Mr Edward

Heath, then Prime Minister, appealing for a reprieve for what it described as one of Europe's great monuments (Our Planning Reporter writes).

In 1974 it passed into the guardianship of the department, which has since put forward four options: to repair it at an estimated cost of £500,000; to stabilize the portico and

supporting walls and demolish the rest, which it is thought would cost about £250,000; to leave it to decay; or to demolish it completely.

Many conservationists, including Save Britain's Heritage, are campaigning for the first option, and claim that the department's estimates are inflated.

Changes urged in mobility allowance rules

By Our Social Services

Correspondent

The Government is being asked to change the mobility allowance rules after disclosures in *The Times* that children suffering from Down's Syndrome are being refused the allowance.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, wants the criteria changed to allow all children unable to use public transport to become eligible automatically.

Mr Ashley said yesterday that it was deplorable that Down's Syndrome children were still being refused the allowance despite new regulations introduced this year. Those regulations were intended to remove confusion about the eligibility of such children; a test case had established that those with walking difficulties should be entitled to the allowance.

Mr Ashley yesterday wrote to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, asking for a change in the rules.

Action stepped up in BBC dispute

By Ian Bradley

The industrial action which is stopping the production of BBC television programmes in London and severely curtailing television and radio production in five regional centres intensified yesterday.

Sound recordists at the BBC's film studios in Ealing, west London, and sound technicians working on Open University programmes at Alexandra Palace, north London, stopped work.

The dispute, which involves members of the Association of Broadcasters and Allied Staffs, is over the introduction of a new grading scheme. News bulletins are now the only programmes being produced in the BBC's studios.

The corporation and most of the unions representing its employees generally agree that the grading scheme, which is 20 years old, is on the verge of collapse.

It was drawn up at a time when there was virtually no inflation and before the days of government incomes policies.

In the last few years the system has been used by unions

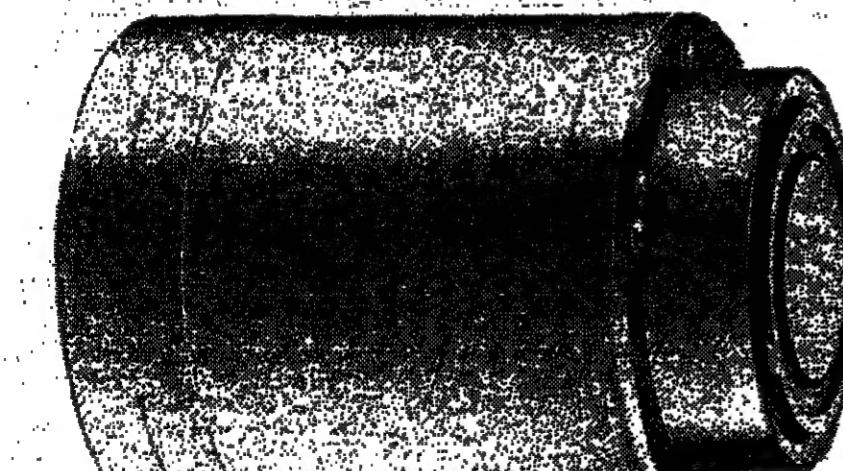
as a device to get round successive incomes policies and to make leapfrogging claims. Each successful claim has a significant "knock-on" effect. As a result, there are now more than 1,000 regrading claims in the pipeline, which would take the grading department with a staff of 30, at least two years to work through.

At present BBC staff are divided into five main grades: managerial, production and editorial (MP, with 7,174 staff), operational (OP—7,126), administrative and supervisory (AS—1,647), clerical (CO—564) and secretarial (SC—5,132). There are also casual and weekly staff.

There are eight divisions which apply to all sound technicians and members of technical operations crews who were top of the list of those who had claims coming up for consideration.

Mr Anthony Hutton, general secretary of the AS, said yesterday that within the last 12 months there had been reviews of the grades of qualified engineers and came amen.

New flag officer
Vice-Admiral Thomas Baird took over yesterday as the new Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland at Rosyth. His predecessor, Vice-Admiral Sir Cameron Rusby, has been appointed Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic at Norfolk, United States.



If I guide a tank at night or spot a badger.

The lens-like object pictured above is a product of over 50 years of image tube technology that's making even the Americans envious.

It's an image intensifier that lets you see, no matter how little light there is—even starlight will do.

Light particles are accelerated through an almost unimaginably fine and concentrated system of glass fibres, to be amplified up to 100,000 times. So image intensifiers operate in the dark, making possible a host of night-time military and security activities.

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But that's not all that Mullard

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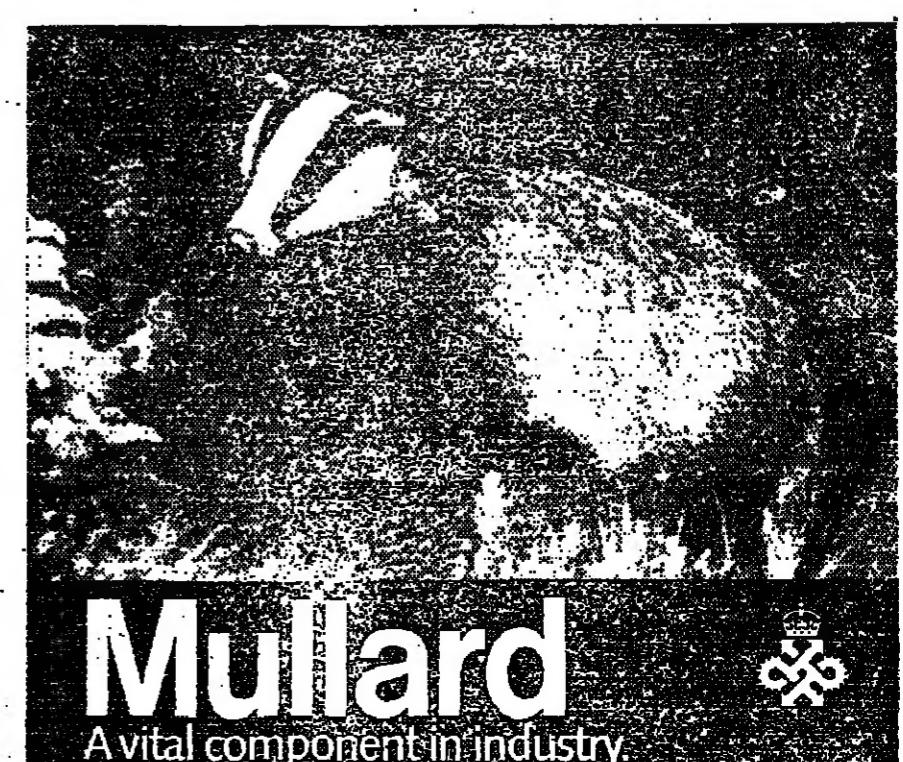
It's not really surprising.

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available in the world today.

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And that's a combined effort to see us through into the future.



Mullard
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HOME NEWS

Protests over closure of Supplementary Benefits Commission

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent
The closure of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, disclosed in The Times yesterday, was confirmed last night when a White Paper due to be published today began circulating among MPs.

The White Paper also disclosed some of the reforms to the supplementary benefit scheme which are to be outlined in the Bill today.

They include reducing the number of children's rates from five to three, bringing short-term national insurance benefits into line with supplementary benefit rates and codifying the items for which lump sums can be given.

Those reforms received a general welcome last night, although there is some anxiety that the change to the children's rates may conceal a cut which was fast becoming "a festering sore" to ministers. The SBC had been set up by Parliament as an independent voice, but the new social security advisory committee which would replace it would consist of people hand-picked by ministers.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said the closure would be a great loss to claimants. It also raised the suspicion that the Government did not want to have an independent critical voice at a time when it was making substantial changes to the supplementary benefit scheme.

Doubts were also expressed by Miss Diana Warwick, assistant secretary in charge of the DHSS section of the Civil and Public Services Association.

The SBC had always taken a more radical line than the National Insurance Advisory Committee, which is also to be overtaken by the new body.

Although some of the reforms in the Bill were welcome, taken as a whole it amounted to "one of the most harmful we have seen before Parliament for 20 years".

The two issues that concern



The painting which Professor Anthony Blunt first declared a genuine Poussin self-portrait, then a copy. It is owned by the Gimpel family.

When Blunt view of a 'Poussin' changed

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

"Could Blunt have held it against us all that time?" it mused Jean Gimpel. As an undergraduate at Cambridge Professor Anthony Blunt got a vacation job as tutor to the children of the great Paris art dealer, René Gimpel. Gimpel, in his son's words, was a grand gourou and would not permit Blunt, the hired help, to take his meals with the family.

Twenty years later, in the 1950s, Blunt, the great Poussin scholar, ruled that the Poussin "self-portrait" owned by the Gimpels was a copy rather than an original, a decision that cut several noughts off the price at a stroke of his scholarly pen.

Four hundred and fifty passengers escaped uninjured from the Inter-City express after the 70 mph accident at Northallerton, north Yorkshire, last August.

The inquiry in York, also heard that a gearbox on the front of the train was almost dry of oil and had jammed by broken metal inside the box.

Mr Derek Reeves, a divisional maintenance engineer, suggested that the damaged wheel had jammed into V-shaped sprockets, derailing the first unit, and because of its speed the rest followed, ripping up 600yd of track.

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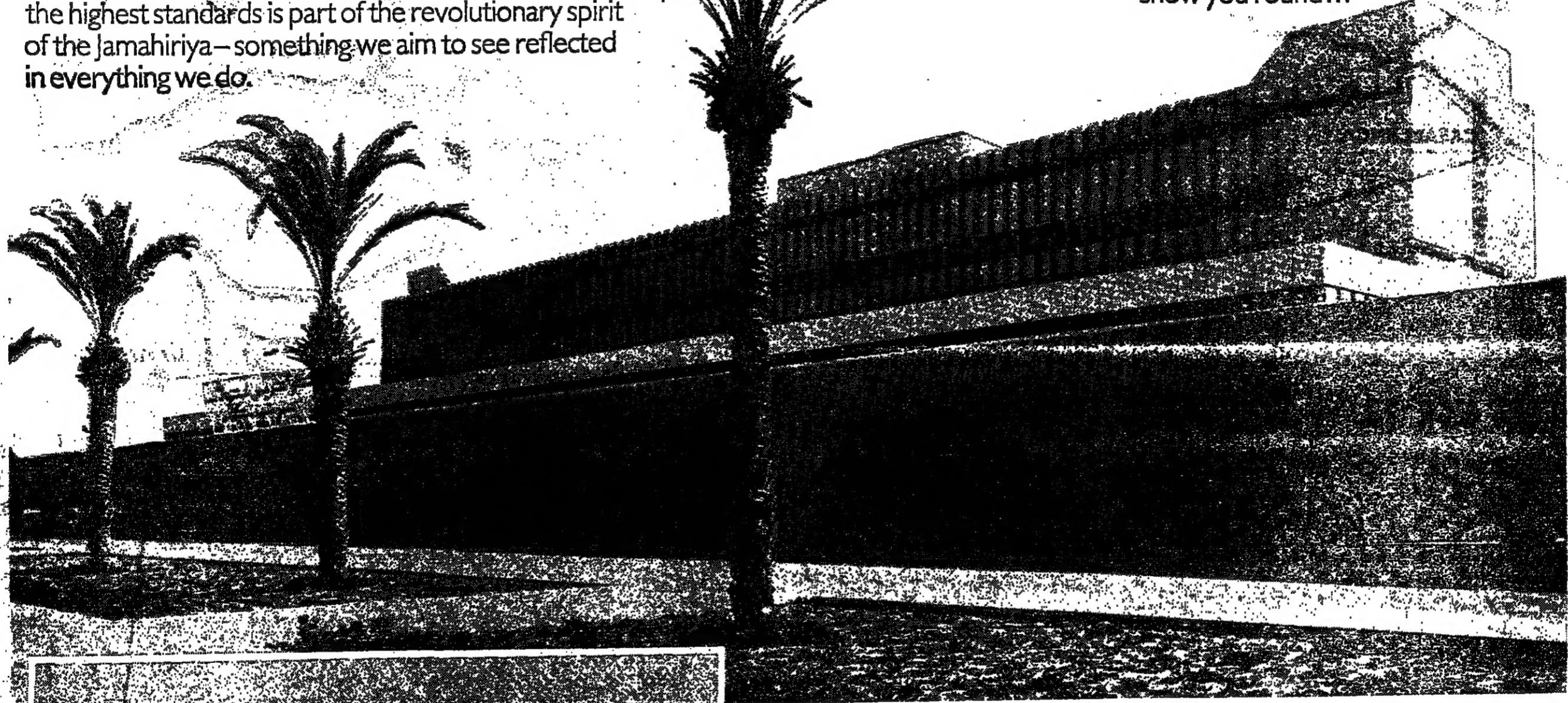
OUR WELCOME to the **JAMAHIRIYA***

Libyan Arab Airlines,
with its continuously developing route system,
is very conscious of the need to back
expansion in the air with top class facilities
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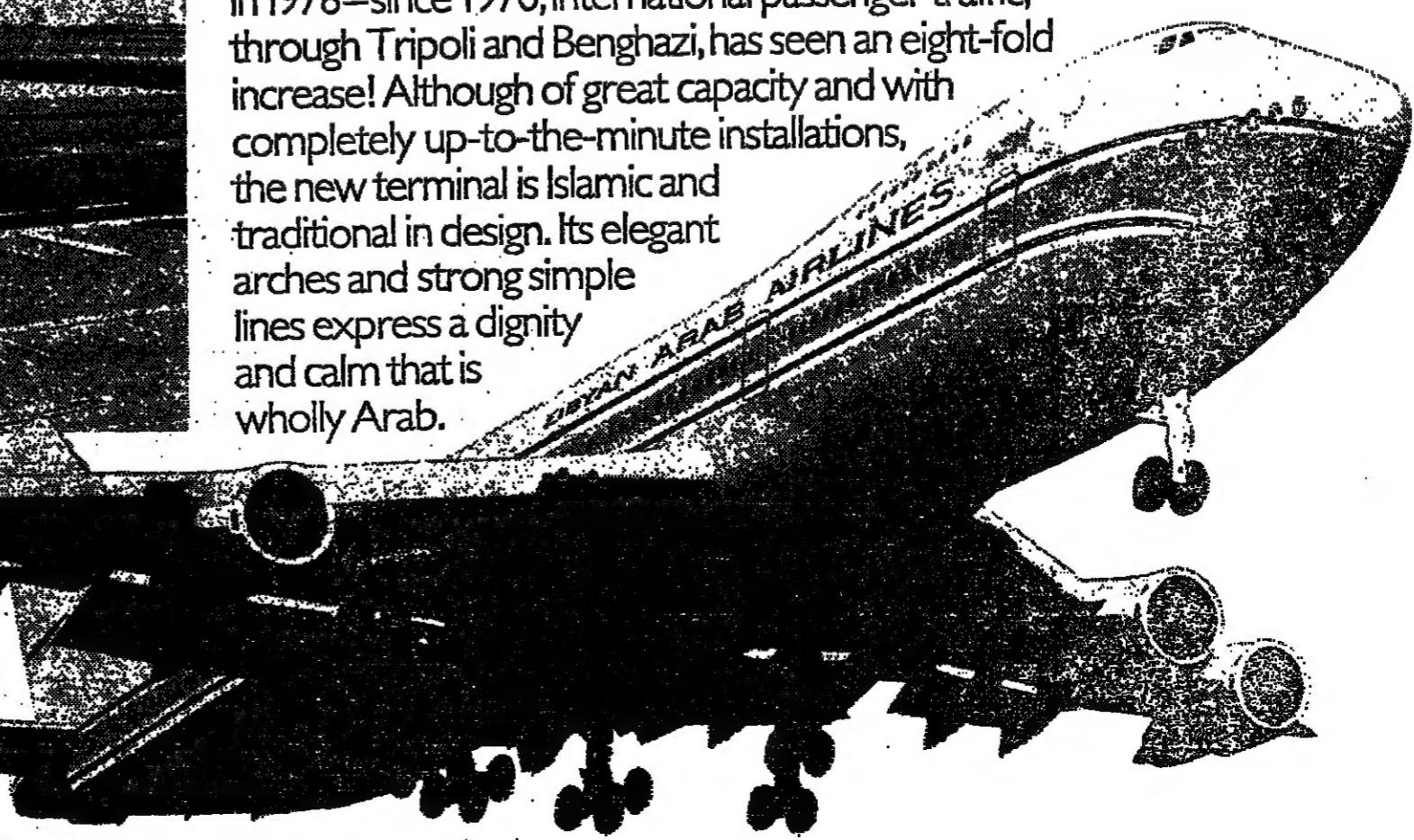
As well as the desire to provide passengers
with a first rate Airline service, this striving for
the highest standards is part of the revolutionary spirit
of the Jamahiriya—something we aim to see reflected
in everything we do.

There's no better example of this than our
new airport at Tripoli.
Here, you meet us on our home ground.
It's where we welcome you to the Jamahiriya.

We're proud of our Airport,
one of the most advanced in the world,
and we'd like to take this opportunity to
show you round...



The new terminal at Tripoli Airport was opened
in 1978—since 1970, international passenger traffic,
through Tripoli and Benghazi, has seen an eight-fold
increase! Although of great capacity and with
completely up-to-the-minute installations,
the new terminal is Islamic and
traditional in design. Its elegant
arches and strong simple
lines express a dignity
and calm that is
wholly Arab.



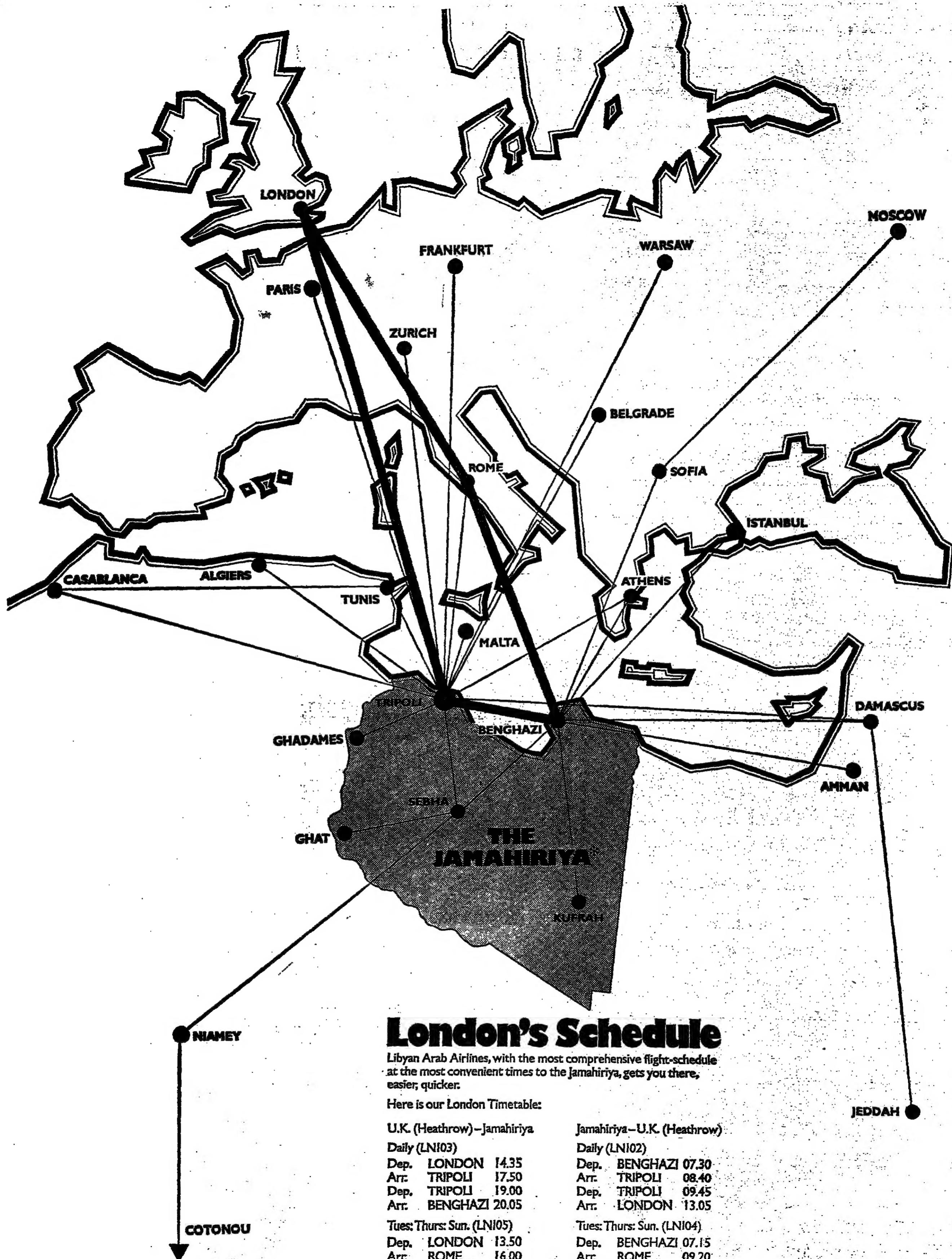
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Early next year Libyan Arab Airlines
will be taking delivery of its new 747 fleet—
three aircraft in all—another dramatic leap
forward in the airline's policy of continuous
expansion. Following as it does, so closely on
the tenth Anniversary of the Revolution, this
adds a potent affirmation of all that has
happened since September 1st 1969, and carries
forward the surge of development that will
take the Jamahiriya into the eighties.



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London's Schedule

Libyan Arab Airlines, with the most comprehensive flight-schedule at the most convenient times to the Jamahiriya, gets you there, easier, quicker.

Here is our London Timetable:

U.K. (Heathrow) - Jamahiriya

Daily (LNI03)

Dep. LONDON 14.35
Arr. TRIPOLI 17.50
Dep. TRIPOLI 19.00
Arr. BENGHAZI 20.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI05)

Dep. LONDON 13.50
Arr. ROME 16.00
Dep. ROME 17.00
Arr. BENGHAZI 19.00

Jamahiriya - U.K. (Heathrow)

Daily (LNI02)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.30
Arr. TRIPOLI 08.40
Dep. TRIPOLI 09.45
Arr. LONDON 13.05

Tues: Thurs: Sun. (LNI04)

Dep. BENGHAZI 07.15
Arr. ROME 09.20
Dep. ROME 10.10
Arr. LONDON 12.25

London Office: Libyan Arab Airlines, 88 Piccadilly, London W1V 9HD
General Enquiries Tel: 01-499 1016/9. Ticketing & Sales Tel: 01-499 0381/5

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LIBYAN ARAB AIRLINES

* Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.



HOME NEWS

Call for technology to have priority in all school teaching

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Technology must be made part of the mainstream of education in schools, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, told a conference in London yesterday on education's contribution to Britain's economic recovery.

Technology should no longer be regarded as a poor relation, or something for the non-academic pupil, he said. It must both infuse the whole curriculum, being made part of the basic approach to literacy, numeracy and dexterity, and be encouraged in its own right.

The evidence from the Schools Inspectorate's review of secondary education, due to be published next week, would not be reassuring. It would demand attention and action.

The recently published Government report on local authority arrangements for the school curriculum showed that Britain had "a long way to go".

While most authorities said they were trying to promote the development of a basic un-

derstanding of contemporary economic, social and political life, it was clear that such activity varied greatly in depth and quality, and was far from reaching all pupils.

The relationship between education and economic success was crucial, Mr Macfarlane said. He believed the mismatch between educational content and the needs of industry had contributed significantly to Britain's economic decline.

Mr Macfarlane hinted that the Government would make an announcement before Christmas about financial aid for the promotion of education in microelectronics.

The conference passed resolutions calling for more imaginative solutions to the severe shortage of teachers of physics, mathematics and of craft, design and technology.

Move to expedite abortion Bill angers some MPs

By Our Parliamentary Staff

MPs opposed to changes in the abortion law protested angrily yesterday when Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for North Ayrshire and Eilean, successfully moved a motion requiring the Commons committee considering his Abortion (Amendment) Bill to sit three days a week instead of one.

He has not charged opponents of his controversial Bill with filibustering, but thinks progress has been too slow for any chance of the report stage being reached on February 8.

The Bill makes further provisions with respect to the termination of pregnancy by registered medical practitioners,

and controversy centres on the upper limit for therapeutic abortions from 28 weeks to 20.

He suggested yesterday that there should be sittings twice a day, three days a week.

Mr William Hamilton, Labour MP for Central Food, protested at this "draconian" use of power by the Bill's supporters. They did not seem to care about the overwhelming amount of medical opinion against it.

Without adequate time for discussion "lies, distortions and exaggeration" could fly out before MPs had time to do anything about them, he said.

The motion was carried by nine votes to five.

Government reneging on conservation commitments, amenity groups say

By John Young

Planning Reporter

An unprecedented and serious confrontation is building up between influential amenity groups and the Government which they say, is reneging on its commitment to conserve the countryside.

A speech to the Royal Town Planning Institute summer school in York last September, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that conservation was perhaps his prime responsibility. National parks, areas of outstanding natural beauty and sites of special scientific interest had to be preserved.

Since then, those words have been thrown angrily back in his face in statements from bodies including the Government-sponsored Countryside Commission, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Ramblers' Association and the Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society.

Plea not to cut aid to problem drinkers

By Our Home Affairs

Correspondent

The all-party Parliamentary Panel Affairs Group today criticizes the Government for cutting off from next spring money to local voluntary organizations working with drunks.

A statement from the group says that many of the organizations which it particularly regards as being at particular risk of deterioration could not look after people referred there by police. Future financing of one of them is under threat.

"In 1978 there were 100,756 convictions for drunkenness and 2,710 receptions into prison of people convicted of drunkenness offences."

It is wasteful to treat people that way, the group says. It urges the Secretary of State for Social Services to think about continuing the supply of money to places for problem drinkers until the full implications of the May report on prisons has been properly considered.

Houses 'should be designed for change in fuel supply'

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

A proposal for an energy impact statement on building projects run by the state, nationalized industries and local authorities was outlined in London yesterday by Sir William Haworth, chairman of the Government's advisory council on energy conservation.

He said in an address to the Institution of Municipal Engineers on energy conservation for local authorities that coal would have to flow across international frontiers like oil had in the past.

Combined heat and power networks would have to be adopted for industrial and residential zones, and new buildings designed to allow for a switch in fuel supplies.

He gave a warning that if we did not do so there was a danger of locking our grandchildren into an energy system that could not be sustained.

The main thread of his advice was that a new industrial

Large food price rises forecast next year

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Food companies would have to make large price rises next year to cover sharp increases in costs, Mr Derrick Hornby, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, said in London yesterday. "We are unable to keep absorbing higher costs of raw materials and packaging."

Mr Barrie Williams, deputy director-general of the federation, said that the cost of living was rising by 16 per cent a year while the cost of food was increasing by only 12 per cent.

"That gap is going to be narrowed," he added.

But the federation, which represents most of the food companies in Britain, does not accept that farmers should charge higher prices.

Mr Hornby said: "They have done very nicely, thank you."

He rejected the claim by the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales for a substantial price rise through a devaluation of the "green pound" by a record 12 per cent in December.

"If the farmers go on putting their prices up and up, their consumption will go down and down, and they will be out of business," he said.

"I believe that butler is the classic example, with surpluses all over the Community so that it has to be sold cheaply to eastern Europe, and where consumers are poor the Community is going down."

Mr James Cleminson, deputy president of the federation, said that food companies would oppose a devaluation next month.

They believe that when devaluations were needed they should coincide with the annual fixing of farm prices throughout the Community in the spring.

"There is no such generalised beast as the general farmer," Mr Cleminson said. "Some farmers have very real problems and others have not."

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has appealed several times this year for farmers and food processors to heal their differences.

At least four issues have been identified, of which perhaps the most controversial is the Government's stated intention not to introduce moorland conservation orders, as recommended by Lord Porchester in his report on Exmoor two years ago.

The others are its failure to provide greater protection for the wetlands of the Broads and the Somerset Levels, and its refusal to designate the North Pennines as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The official view of the Exmoor controversy was contained in the sixth and last of a series of recent consultation papers on the forthcoming Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Ministers were said to be unconvinced that there was a case for compulsory moorland conservation orders, as proposed by the previous Government.

The Countryside Commission claims that voluntary agreements with farmers have not worked, and need to be backed

by reserve powers. It says it does not share the optimism of ministers expressed in the consultation paper.

Mr Alan Mattingly, chairman of the Council for National Parks and secretary of the Ramblers' Association, has accused the Government of refusing to heed the words of the park authority, and of ignoring the recommendations of the Countryside Commission.

The Exmoor Society says that the consultation paper reflects the views of the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union, "none of which bodies must necessarily be more concerned with the profitability of their own holdings than with the conservation of Exmoor."

Mr Ralando Wade, chairman of the CPRE, argues that, in refusing to designate the North Pennines, Mr Heseltine has ignored the recommendations of the commission, his official advisers, and has instead listened to the landowners, the farmers and the Forestry Commission.

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The official view of the Exmoor controversy was contained in the sixth and last of a series of recent consultation papers on the forthcoming Wildlife and Countryside Bill. Ministers were said to be unconvinced that there was a case for compulsory moorland conservation orders, as proposed by the previous Government.

The Countryside Commission claims that voluntary agreements with farmers have not worked, and need to be backed

by reserve powers. It says it does not share the optimism of ministers expressed in the consultation paper.

Mr Alan Mattingly, chairman of the Council for National Parks and secretary of the Ramblers' Association, has accused the Government of refusing to heed the words of the park authority, and of ignoring the recommendations of the Countryside Commission.

The Exmoor Society says that the consultation paper reflects the views of the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union, "none of which bodies must necessarily be more concerned with the profitability of their own holdings than with the conservation of Exmoor."

Mr Ralando Wade, chairman of the CPRE, argues that, in refusing to designate the North Pennines, Mr Heseltine has ignored the recommendations of the commission, his official advisers, and has instead listened to the landowners, the farmers and the Forestry Commission.

The others are its failure to

provide greater protection for

the wetlands of the Broads and

EV PARLIAMENT, November 28, 1979.

MP pleads: do not be seduced by PR system

House of Commons

Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal, refused to give an undertaking that there would be a proportional representation system in the next British elections to the European Parliament.

Mr David Wigley (Caernarvon, Pl) (Cymru) he asked what progress was being made on discussions about the common system of election to be followed for the next election to the European Parliament.

Sir Ian Gilmore—Article 1 (3) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the European Parliament should draw up proposals for elections by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all member states.

It goes on to say that the Council, acting unanimously, shall then draw up the appropriate provisions in accordance with the rules of member states for adopting them in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

The European Parliament have not yet drawn up proposals.

Mr Wigley—Will the Lord Privy Seal give an assurance on behalf of the Government that since this is the policy adopted by the other countries, they will adopt the PR system.

Mr Eric Deakin (Witham Forest, Walthamstow, Lab)—Will the Government be concerned to stand committed or to weaken the assembly?

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C)—Will the minister before of selection towards PR be able to accept that since it is not already apparent that European Members of Parliament are having an identification problem already, without

Sir Ian Gilmore—We rule nothing out but there is a long way to go. We have to see what the European Parliament proposes before we give any assurance.

Mr Eric Deakin—Will the Government be concerned to stand committed or to weaken the assembly?

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C)—Will the minister before of selection towards PR be able to accept that since it is not already apparent that European Members of Parliament are having an identification problem already, without

PR on a regional basis?

Sir Ian Gilmore—I am not sure that I accept entirely what Mr Hill says. I do not believe that people will be able to accept PR without already having an identification problem, but having voted for PR several times here... (Some cheers and interruptions.)

That does not alter the Government view that we have to wait to see what the European Parliament will propose before we make a decision ourselves.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab)—Since there is no proposal, I can understand the Lord Privy Seal not wanting to stand committed to PR, but all the same, it should be made plain to governments of Europe who will be considering this matter and also to European Assembly members, that there is a strong view on both sides of this House against the introduction of PR in Europe. It is clear, however, that the Government's view is quite contrary to the absurd proposition put forward by the President of the Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins who obviously has influence in these matters.

(Laughter.)

Sir Ian Gilmore—It is not for me to enter into a detailed argument. For my part, as all but one will appreciate, what Mr Shore says. This House, in votes in the last Parliament, made its majority opinion perfectly clear.

UK newspapers not on general sale in Russia

Instructions had been given to British embassies in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe to monitor and report regularly on implementation of the Helsinki Agreement. Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time.

Mr Ian Spratt (Aberdeen, South C) had asked what regular steps were taken to monitor breaches.

Mr Hurd—Added—Information is also exchanged regularly with our partners in Nato and the Warsaw Pact. Summary of the results will continue to be made available to the House at six-monthly intervals until the review conference in Madrid next year.

Mr Spratt—In his satisfaction with progress in persuading the Soviet Union to make a Helsinki pledge for a free flow of information in and out of the country and inside the Soviet Union?

Which British newspapers, and how many copies, are freely available in Moscow and what is Mr Hurd's proposal to increase their number?

Mr Hurd (Mid Oxon, C)—We are not satisfied. There has been some improvement since Helsinki but not enough. This is something to be pursued at the Madrid review.

British newspapers are found, too frequently, in Soviet tourist hotels. The Morning Star has a preference, which not all of us would think justified.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab)—Is there any monitoring of our own country of breaches of Helsinki? Has there been any evidence of dissident workers who publish complaints about their own management or the Government's policy being dismissed for it? (Interruptions.)

Mr Hurd—No. That is not a matter for me.

EEC foreign and finance ministers to follow up summit

The EEC Council of Finance Ministers will meet on December 17 to discuss such follow up action as is necessary. The Head of delegations reached at the European Council in Dublin, Sir Ian Gilmore, Lord Privy Seal, said in a statement on the main business to be taken by EEC ministers during December.

He said that at present eight meetings of the Council of Ministers were to be held.

The delegations council (he went on) will meet on December 3 and 4 and is expected to discuss the report of the high level group of officials and third country agreements.

The transport council will meet on December 6 and is expected to discuss Commission reports on the economic and financial situation of

Responsible pay bargaining only effective way forward: important talks next week

There was no alternative to the Government's economic policies in the depressing conditions it had faced Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer (East Surrey, C) said when he opened a debate on the economy by moving a Government motion. That the House supports the economic policies of the Government.

The action he had taken was clearly essential to re-establish and maintain firm control over monetary and fiscal policy. The increase in minimum lending rate was no more welcome to the Government than anyone else, but the Government had not hesitated to act when such measures became clearly necessary.

Market judgments had been clear that the Government's policies were immediately bestial.

Substantial gilt sales had been made and there was still a steady though small scale demand. The immediate reasons for the Government's action were only a symptom of the more serious economic weaknesses they had inherited.

There was a danger that too many would see the problem as one which affected others and not themselves and would try to steal a brief advantage of a percentage point or two.

So it might be lucky for a time, but no one should doubt that the severity of the pressures that would grow if that happened, the difficulties could be widespread and few would be unaffected.

The legislation we shall introduce (he went on) is designed to correct the broad balance of power between employers and unions in collective bargaining and most importantly perhaps to correct the imbalance between militancy and moderation.

The legislation we shall introduce (he went on) is designed to correct the broad balance of power between employers and unions in collective bargaining and most importantly perhaps to correct the imbalance between militancy and moderation.

Given responsible behaviour, it should enable them to achieve the objective of reducing the rate of inflation with the minimum of disruption and unemployment.

We must give overriding priority to pay bargaining for everyone involved in the economic setting in which they had to conduct that secured in the last year of those secured in the last year of the previous administration.

If increases of that order were again demanded and obtained, we would have to fall back on a form of credit, including consumer credit.

Success in restraining monetary growth without relying on unacceptably high interest rates depended on control of imports. If they were to avoid putting excessive weight on monetary policy, then they must follow fiscal policies that were consistent with their other objectives.

There should be no misunderstanding that if public sector spending continued to expand un-

controlled and if public sector pay was to continue to expand unionised and at high levels, then the alternative of higher taxation was one of those factors that would have to be faced.

If the private sector was not to face an excessively high tax burden, then public spending must be sensibly alternative to the policies the Government was following.

The White Paper demonstrated its determination to curb public spending in the interest of firm performance.

Our fiscal policy (he said) will be maintained consistent with our monetary stance. With that objective in view, we shall continue to keep all our policies under review, including plans for public spending.

Both sides must play a responsible part in that judgement. The coal industry faced that responsibility now. Others would face the same problem.

Responsible collective bargaining was the only effective way forward. There was no alternative to the policies they were pursuing.

The TUC had recognised that.

It may be understood that what they were able to do was to recognise that there was no reason why the TUC, CBI and Government should not be able to settle outstanding differences in pursuit of common objectives. That was the spirit in which the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr James Prior) was trying to introduce his proposals for reform in industrial relations legislation.

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The problem involved in product liability

Law Report November 28 1979

Queen's Bench Division

Solicitors' costs in criminal trials

Regina v Wilkinson
Before Mr Justice Robert Goff
[Judgment delivered Nov 21]

A Law Society publication, *The Expenses of Time*, which proposed a system for calculating solicitors' expenses, did not provide a sufficiently reliable guide to be used as a basis for taxation of costs.

Mr Goff was open to the view that the law had not been provided with a clear and simple method of calculating the basis of the solicitors' fees.

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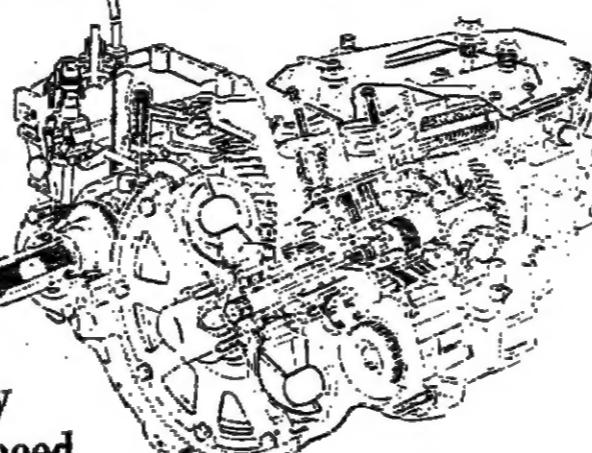
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/ERSEAS

Supreme Soviet hears stark economic recast since the war

Michael Binyon

Nov. 28
Soviet
states who assembled
all parts of the Soviet
today heard one of the
stark economic forecasts for
country since the Second

War. It came hard on
of a tough speech
by President Brezhnev
describing this year's
as far from satisfactory.
es presented by Mr
Babakov, chairman of
the Planning Committee,
opening session of the
Soviet, the Soviet
of Parliament,
that the Soviet Union
lled seriously behind its
in the current five-year
nd that targets for next
put in a number of
ctors of industry have
aled down considerably.
figures also showed that
s grain harvest was
r for four years. Only
illion tonnes of grain
en harvested compared
ur year's record of 237
tonnes.

drop caused by a severe
and a spring drought in
arts of the country will
in this year's produc-
t results as agriculture
up about a fifth of the
national product. The
is will have to spend
a hard currency on in-
grain imports from

Aleksandr Kosygin, the
Prime Minister who has
responsibility for the
y, was absent from
Supreme Soviet ses-
on for a month and
officials say he is recov-
rom an illness.

Nikolai Tikhonov, his
puty Prime Minister,
sterday made a full

member of the ruling 14-man
Politburo and today sat imme-
diately behind President Brez-
nev in the rows reserved on
the platform for the Soviet lea-
dership.

Todays figures show that the
Soviet Union's overall growth
this year will be only about 3.6
per cent compared with the
target of 5.7 per cent set by
Mr Babakov last year.

Last night, Mr Brezhnev told
the plenum of the Communist
Party's powerful Central Com-
mittee that 1979 had been the
most difficult of the current
five-year plan.

He said the country was run-
ning short of energy, railway
transport was in chaos, not
enough metal was being pro-
duced, meat and milk were
scarce, food was poor and such
common consumer items as
toothpaste, washing powder,
needles and thread and baby
nappies were hard to find.

Mr Brezhnev said far too lit-
tle was being done to raise
industrial efficiency and the
quality of work, and this had
led to bottlenecks and short-
ages. Vast funds had been held
in the state and the labour force
had been increased, but the
final result was less than it
should have been and less
than the country's potential
allowed. As a result, the
economy was suffering from
imbalances, shortages and in-
sufficient reserves.

The Soviet leader, often
using hard-hitting language,
said a great many ministries
and enterprises were unable to
overcome the force of inertia.
And he blamed several minis-
ters by name, including the
Minister of Railways and the
Minister of Power, for dis-
organization, poor results and
shortcomings that affected the
rest of industry.

Yugoslavia's Stalinist rulers wooed by 'Pravda'

Our Own Correspondent

Nov. 28
unusually conciliatory
marking the thirty-fifth
ary of the liberation of
from the Nazis, Pravda
uggested that Moscow
like to normalize its
th Albania and did not
thing to divide the two

Russians had always
the difficulties in
ianian relations as
the Communist Party
er said, and these
ow be overcome in the
n interest of all anti-
ist forces.
is broke off relations
ow 18 years ago.
the Soviet leadership
onism and interference
le's internal affairs.
then forged a close
with China, which was
two years ago when
in turn was condemned

for revisionism. The anathema
on Moscow, however, has never
been lifted.

Pravda reminded the
Albanians that the Russians
had, in given them "dis-
tant, often generous aid"
which had helped them to carry
out thorough-going transforma-
tions in all fields of life.

There is no doubt that
Soviet-Albanian friendship and
cooperation met the vital in-
terests of the peoples of the
two countries", Pravda added.

The Russians have been trying
since 1954, to woo the
Stalinist regime in Tirana without
success. Albania is not a
member of the Warsaw Pact,
and its position on the Adriatic
could make the small country
of great strategic importance.
Now that the links with China
have been cut, the Russians
believe they should seize the
initiative before Albania's tem-
porary rapprochement with the West
brought it to a standstill.

Official attacks augur ill for China's democracy wall

Nov. 28

The future
of China's "democracy wall"
leak today after harsh
in the year-old forum
by members of the
People's Congress,
equivalent of parlia-
ment, of deputies pro-
posed "resolute" measures
to deal with Xidai
the New China news
in a report on the
meeting of the
Commanding committee. It
say whether any deci-
the wall had been

200-yard stretch of
brick along Peking's
Boulevard was first
"democracy wall" last
ben the authorities
tearing down posters
ficialized the state, and
a focus of dissent
own to the Chinese as
he name of a street
est attacks on the wall

came after last month's trial of
Wei Jingchong, a political activ-
ist, who was jailed for 15 years
on charges of passing military
secrets to a foreigner and of
counter-revolutionary agitation.

The attacks seemed to have
been sparked off by the recent
republication in Reference
News, a daily newspaper with
a circulation of about 10 mil-
lion and distributed to high-
ranking officials, of a story in
an American newspaper that
spoke of contacts between
the activists and foreigners.

The unofficial transcript of

Mr Wei's trial, on the wall for
the past few weeks, also speaks
of his relations with foreigners.

The news agency today

quoted Mr Zhang Wenyu, a
deputy, as telling the standing
committee that there should be
severe punishment for oppo-
nents of the Communist system
"who collude with foreigners
and ask the major money and
political materials to carry out
activists against the socialist
system".

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Tension and fear continue in the Seychelles

By Our Foreign Staff

Two weeks after the quashing
of what President Albert René
of the Seychelles said was an
attempted coup, the islands are
still tense. The President's

Tanzanian troops check vehicles

and their occupants at frequent

intervals and many of those
arrested are detained without
charge.

The plot was attributed to
foreign businessmen wanting
to make Mahé into a gambling
and arms dealing centre". It
was also alleged that there was
a group of mercenaries waiting
in Durban to be flown in to
support the usurpers. However,
some prominent local people
were arrested as well as
foreigners.

Among those still held, are
Mr Bernard Verlaque, the
editor of Weekend Life, a news-
paper closed down by the Gov-
ernment two weeks before the
attempted coup, and Mr Gerard
Hoarau, the chief immigration
officer. About 100 people are
thought to be still in jail
though the official figure is
"over 80".

A curfew introduced on the
day of the coup, which ran
from 6 am to 6 pm, has been
relaxed and starts now at mid-
night. Even with that change
the tourist industry is being
affected as reports spread of
heavily armed troops on patrol
and of a population apprehensive
of the future.

Ordinary citizens are afraid

Iranians plan to auction off carpets, furniture and other treasures
that the imperial family were forced to leave behind them

The Shah's palace yields up its gilded secrets

From Robert Fisk
Tehran, Nov. 28

If Richard III really did
offer his kingdom for a horse,
then the Shah of Iran seems to
have paid for his freedom with
a clutch of palaces, a heap of
princesses, "Persian carpets", a
Marc Chagall sketch, a 22-carat
gold seventeenth-century model
of a Chinese ship, a two-ton
elephant, a set of piano
that would send a music
into ecstasy, and two solid
gold telephones.

Standing beneath the silver
birches on the windy lawns of the
Nasirian Palace today, an Iranian
Government official made one of the more historic
sales of the century sound like
nothing but a momentary hiccup
in the progress of the revolution—which is, perhaps,
just what it will turn out to be.

"We will put the contents
up for auction", he said.
"Then the palaces will be
turned into museums."

We were left to watch a turn-
buned and mudkinned Iranian
armed with G3 automatic rifles
as they pulled and tugged a
30ft square, hand-woven crimson
and gold Isfahan rug across the
library floor.

However much the long-term
national interest may decree
that the United States should
wait patiently on events, for
fear that complete chaos would
bring the Russians to the Gulf,
a massacre of the hostages in
Tehran would bring instant and
violent retaliation.

A formidable American fleet
is being assembled in the
Arabian Sea, off the coasts of
Oman. Its most powerful unit,
the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk,
has not arrived yet. Ten ships,
including the aircraft carrier
Midway, are there already; the
Kitty Hawk is accompanied by a
cruiser, two destroyers and a
frigate.

There are two, equally compelling
reasons for the conclusion
that this force would be used
against Iran if the hostages
are killed. The first is
America's position in the
world: What value would any
one put on an alliance with
the United States if it did not
respond to a direct attack on
itself?

The Americans no longer
want to play the role of world
policeman, but they have great
interests abroad and they must
be protected.

The second reason is domestic.
There has been a change in
American opinion. The isolationist,
non-interventionist, left-wing
tide which reached its
height in the riots after the
American invasion of Panama
is running out swiftly.

This does not mean that the
American people would be
happy to occupy Iran. But at
the very least they would demand
the use of the United
States Air Force in retaliation
for any murder of the hostages.

If military action is taken,
there is no shortage of targets.
The Ayatollah would be wise to
remove himself to a place of
safety.

One reason being discussed
here for a less drastic reaction
—destruction of the Aradan
refinery, for example—is that
the West's long-term hope for
Iran must be the establishment
of a "moderate" government
(that is, one responsible and
non-Communist) which will
have to depend on the armed
forces for internal security.

There is little left of the
Shah's proud armies, but it
would not help the West's
future position if the United
States destroys whatever
remains. Many soldiers have
joined in the anti-American
demonstrations, but the links
between the Iranian armed
forces and the United States
were strong.

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New Books/one

A BBC Book for Everyone

Delia Smith's Cookery Course Part 2
Latest cookery guide by Britain's favourite television cook.
£3.75—Published 29 November

Shoestring
A fast and witty thriller by Paul Ableman.
£4.75—Hardback (6 December) 90p—Paperback

Nuclear Nightmares
Nigel Calder writes about the risk of a nuclear war.
£6.95—Published 6 December

Tomorrow's World Looks to the Eighties
A review of some exciting technological innovations.
£7.25

The Master Game
Games from the popular BBC TV chess tournament.
£2.50

Make your own Furniture
Here are the detailed plans and instructions for making the furniture demonstrated in the BBC TV series.
£7.50

The World of Rugby
The story of Rugby Union around the world.
£6.25

The Voyage of Charles Darwin
Darwin's own account of his voyage aboard H.M.S. Beagle.
£6.75

The Busy World is Hushed
A book of radio talks by H. Colin Davis.
£1.50

Mr Smith's Indoor Garden
A new plant care guide by Geoffrey Smith.
90p

Decaying Splendours
Stephen Weeks tells how he discovered a lost fragment of forgotten England in a corner of India.
£7.50

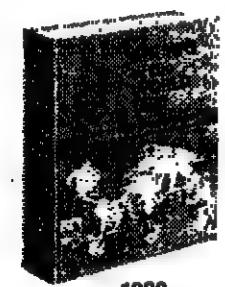
The Spiral Stair
A hilarious story from Jackanory by Joan Aiken.
75p

The Magic of Dance by Dame Margot Fonteyn will be published 24 January at £11.75.

BBC
PUBLICATIONS

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SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Reports to appear in January, 1980, are:

JANUARY

7 Continental Motoring

15 Arab Construction

23 Singapore

25 Audio Visual Aids

28 Eire

The light brigade

The Oxford Book of American Light Verse (Oxford, £7.50), though frankly a bit of a mess, contains quite a few pleasant surprises, and one of the greatest is to find the sixth President of the United States exploring the possibilities of drag. Others include Vladimir Nabokov consuming a neighbour at dinner ("I want you, she murmured, to eat Dr. James"); "The Feast of the Monkeys" by John Philip Sousa; John Holland's "entry for the annual world-wide Margot D'Amato" ("Now that both oft-afraid bosom heaves/A final sight, crushed by the wrecker's ball"); Oscar Hammerstein writing bitterly about money and starvation in "Allegro, Anthony Hecht on Matthew Arnold's girl ("The Dover Bitch") and Roy Blount Jr. on a story in *Newweek* about Wayne Sleep:

A dreamlike leap
By England's Sleep!
He didn't dose.
He did a doze.
His legs arose.
In curtains.

Perfect, too, is Ambrose Bierce's definition of an egotist as "A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me". But such pleasures take some finding. When Kingsley Amis collected *The New Oxford Book of Light Verse* in 1977, he omitted American poets almost entirely—purely from inclination, perhaps, but chiefly because this anthology by William Harmon had already been planned to complement his *Auden*. And the American territory in the original Oxford *Book of Light Verse* of 1938, now reprinted as a paperback (Oxford, £3.50), was being cut in two. All anthologies conduct campaigns in taste—the more personal the more campaigning—and as Amis departed radically from the populist tone of Auden so, from the start, does Harmon take issue with Amis.

The Professor of English at Chapel Hill is genial enough but, irredeemably donut and wimpy, and incapable of Auden's rough, terse and wryly consistent apostrophe. Harmon's first attempts are not too successfully to define ways in which American Light Verse is peculiarly American and then writes, of the dark, destructive side of comedy: "This Dionysian, anarchic id-spirits of misrule seems to represent the pre-social and pre-logical Individual-as-dear-to-American conservatives as to Jean-Jacques Rousseau—the individual who can turn every soiled, cliché utterance—and even a drunk and incurable party."

For heaven's sake! None of this would matter more than the normal difference between a dissertation and a seminar did not a sense of purpose in the choice of the poems themselves prove equally elusive. There is simply too much: the vision blurs. Amis compressed more than 400 years of English poetry into 121 poems and 329 pages; Harmon, with half that number of years to work on, takes half as many poets again and 528 pages to make his choice. Inevitably, and unnecessarily, the general level of verse is far lower than in the English collection, and some of it—especially the reminiscence and diminishing the palette of talents like "Orpheus C. Kerr" (John Greenleaf Whittier), James Randolph, Phyllis McGinley and Ogden Nash—should not be there at all.

One problem when choosing the poems for an anthology of this kind is that America lacks the received tradition of High Verse—no Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth or Pope—which Light Verse needs to kick against and take off. What she does possess, or so it looks from over here, is a rich nineteenth-century folk poetry and a twentieth-century still in the metropolitan lyric that is unequalled. It is in this that the best of these truly American forms that *The Oxford Book of American Light Verse* seems both tenuous and unbalanced, as though they have made it easier for themselves by, so



The boy stood on the burning deck,
His feet were full of blisters;
The flames came up and burned his pants,
And now he wears his sister's.

Anon, chosen by Christopher Logue and illustrated by Bill Tidy.

True, we get the whole of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and "Meet Me in St. Louis" (Logue), a couple of coarse exchanges from the Civil War, but apart from "Clemence" and "Starving to Death" on a Government Claim", not much from California, and still less from the railroads—sighs all, Bill Bailey (who is present) was a brakeman on the Baltimore and Ohio. I should have liked more poems of immigrant life, since those chosen are mostly German, and, curiously, irresistibly comic:

She has hair as brown, art is a pretzel,
Her eyes was himmel-blue,
Und ven day looked into mine,
Day split mine heart in two.

It is probably true that many lyrics for the stage lose bones and flesh when separated from their melody—even "Anything Goes" needs a singer's phrasing and the right kind of breath to keep Cole Porter's internal rhythms in the memory of the line before—but the other examples of Porter (five), Hart (five), Hammerstein (three) and in Garstin (only two!) earn their place without music so well that it seems more a shame to have only one lyric each from Frank Loesser, Johnny Mercer ("Julietta T. Corponne" hardly typical) and Stephen Sondheim ("Gee, Officer Krupke", dino) and nothing by Kern, Berlin, Alan Jay Lerner, or Richard Wilbur at all.

Perhaps Professor Harmon would describe what I miss as Popular or Folk Verse that is not High can also be Nonsense (on the whole, an un-American activity) or Comic, not to mention Silly. Faber anthologies have been more far-sighted than Oxford's, in keeping all these intertwined forms apart, though they have made it easier for themselves by, so

Special relationships

Governing the BBC
By Asa Briggs
(BBC, £10)

A Seamless Robe
By Charles Curran
(Collins, £8.95)

What was *The Beckhagen Case*?

In a public opinion poll this question would be lucky to get one right answer. In a short and "A Mastermind" question should do better. Because this is one of nine case studies chosen for close study by Asa Briggs in a book which will be required reading for anyone interested in how the BBC works. It was this earliest of the nine to occur? The Queen of Ulster? The last? Forty years apart from each other, both illustrate Government pressure on the BBC and to proceed with a planned programme.

In 1932 the BBC's Chairman, having reluctantly yielded to Cabinet pressure to cancel a broadcast by a 1914-18 US-Boat commander, wrote to Ministers protesting that such pressure "at a moment of its independence" was "a middle way, which makes it possible for a government to avoid being either too much or too little involved".

Briggs' book is a consequence of this, and of the BBC's undernarrated history. It is a middle way, which makes it possible for a government to avoid being either too much or too little involved.

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New Books/two

half a marriage

v's Leading Lady
vey Pitcher
Murray, £8.50)

were invited to read Shakespeare and Anne by both in one book how ages would you like? I wrote to the lady, who is 67 as opposed to her 52 years? There is to wait for an answer one. But the same questions constantly nudges us as through Harvey Pitcher's adable book. It has to of course, that he plays us *Chekhov's Leading* his title, so it's right, but that actress Olga whom she holds the stage and it does for a very me, because she never ninety-first year of her lived for 55 years after whom she knew for from 1898 and was to for only just over. She survived Stalin, underlines her talent for servation, and lived on a Khrushchevian thaw, a 1959.

he same, it's Chkhov are really interested in us, and, I believe, a man as well something over. Mr Pitcher's des of Chkhov's hesitant to marriage and leading pursuit of it is on Olga's side. Chkhov would have preferred to sleep with her now when she could spare from the Moscow Art to come down on a his invalid hideout in his strong not from any ice on Chkhov's part to a honest woman of her, uply from his certain age that he was, by 1898, a man. Chkhov was in medicine, and indeed as a doctor for much life; he didn't want to burden of long-drawn-upless nursing on a healthy young woman.

CHING UP



Olga Knipper didn't understand this. She wasn't stupid, but she wasn't subtle either. "How much longer are we going to be secretive?" she writes to him from Moscow in 1900. "And what's the point? ... I can't bear these ambiguities, why complicate life?" Chkhov, I believe, would have smiled a sad smile when he received this one. Olga was a steamroller lady of German descent. Best perhaps to marry her, and not try to explain. Mr Pitcher fails to bring out with sufficient emphasis what I take to be Chkhov's stance at this point in their relationship.

They were married. But even then, it wasn't more than

hard scrubbing of the memory cells tell me, that there was an exciting, if somewhat overdone, spy tale in the pages.

More spying in early Tech with The Alpha List by Ted Allbeury (Granada, £6.95). And here it is the substance of the book that Time has preserved for me. Perhaps because this was a spy story with a clear didactic purpose. It sought to bring to public attention a situation that corresponds fairly closely to a likely, but secret, real state of affairs: the highly confidential plans for post-nominated Britain. Technology can provide safety for a few. Who are to be the few, not of 1940, but of 19 when?

however, I can call in aid. So I have taken the titles of the dozen books I have created at length and asked myself, "What remember about them

early January I read Test by Sara George (Hamish Hamilton, £3.95). And, yes, I still have a strong of a long transatlantic journey, grittily feel-driving for hundreds of long straight freeways of steady sun. There was too. It featured a young actress. But of it I can nothing more. Nor does writer. It held me while I got from the book, I got and vivid impression of America.

my February choice, Me About England by Ferris (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.95), I remain an strong impression of Britain. Though in aridity, there is a feel-dab perversity. Perhaps not the whole truth, but truth I am sure. Some

Not much more scratched on the tablets in May by Calypso by Ed McBain (Hamish Hamilton, £4.95), just a rather unpleasant scene of a romanticized wicked lady making love to a Aslan. McBain's book had things to praise in it, life-telling, vividly sketched people and locales, humour, warmth.

A giant cross used in some sort of a robbery coupled with an impression, somewhat vague at the edges, of a man of relentless physical courage.

Towards its end I would

Science fiction

A tourniquet may have been applied, but that artery of literature known as science fiction was still connected to this reviewer's appreciation, pumping away throughout the year. The SF heart is still as vigorous as ever, like an organ in one of Robert Silverberg's stories which now seem to have a repetitive insistence on matter and/or mind exchange. In fact, he came up with one of his best novels towards the end of the year, The Second Trip (Gollancz, £4.95) in which personality-expungement is society's way with dangerous criminals.

A related paradox was that, earlier, was published *Neal Step The Stars* (Dobson, £4.25), group of Silverberg's short stories, some of them written when he was at college, and which he claims were "not bad for a writer who was still in his very early twenties when the last of them was written". Not bad, agreed, and of a variety, all the more enjoyable since they were written before his work had calcified, however entertainingly, into his transplant theme. The themes of Brian Aldiss have always been as multiple and, occasionally as enigmatic, as the blooms that

flowered in his hothouse; and New Arrivals, Old Encounters (Cape, £4.50) was a rich reaping from his imagination's own hot-house, ranging from the exquisite "Amen And Out" to a tale about a time when the EEC might well be pronounced "Eek" in "A Spot of Confrontation".

I did not have the opportunity to comment on Arthur C. Clarke's *The Fountains of Paradise* (Gollancz, £4.95), in which an engineer, Vanevian Morgan, builds a tower in the sky on a site enshrouded by Oriental religions. It made for fascinating, wry, reading especially when out-of-spaces moved in. Mr Clarke, though, has still not found his way back to the characterization of his best work and Ayn Rand seems a dubious source of inspiration for him.

The characterization of Ursula Le Guin always gives shape and dimension to the most abstract of her ideas and *Planets of Exile* (Gollancz, £3.50), one of her first novels only now published, is a startling, tender appreciation of the mutual need of the sexes in one of her worlds, assembled so credibly: this time Gamma Draconis. Earth itself is seen as an alien place to the interplanetary engineer Ivan Zhulin in *The Final Circle of Paradise* (Dobson, £4.25) by Arkadi and Boris Strugatski. Soviet siblings in SF, Zhulin, after an absence in space, is made aware that there are strange forces surging beneath normality, an oppressive sense of being "managed". Electronics is the answer... Man is the only solution. His brothers get better.

One of the most enjoyable hardcore SF books of the year, and at an unstratospheric price, was what Sidgwick and Jackson are pleased to call *Science Fiction Special*, No 31 (£6.95). This contains three novels by Octavia E. Butler, James Gunn and Jack Williamson, all of a fine and urgent standard, which is more than can be said for the typography which weirdly shifts in size from story to story.

In this respect Robert Carrier has done steadily more practical over the years. His

David Williams

half a marriage. Chkhov—and indeed Olga too—felt it right that her career with Stanislavsky in Moscow should not suffer interruption. It was dangerous for Chkhov, with his tuberculosis, to risk the excitements and climatic rigours of Moscow for more than brief periods; Olga could come down to Yalta only when there was respite. Those three years Mr Pitcher sketches in with an eye for the finer details: the busy, not-nicely-dressed lady and the lack-down genius wave at each other in the friendliest way across the vast Russian distances. Chkhov's ugly, choking death on a hot summer night in Badenweiler is also put before us with sympathy and a restraint which make it the more horrifying.

But then come a hundred pages of aftermath. Olga's acting range wasn't wide. Naturally and rightly she occupies herself in the main with the great Chkhovian quartet; apart from that, four Ibsen parts, one Dostoyevsky adaptation, the Mayor's wife in Gogol's *Governor's Inspector*, Lady Macbeth in *The Fiery Furnace*—notably the last. There was a brief affair with Gordon Craig, who was notably expert at brief affairs with women both in and outside his age-range, there was a busy tour of America in 1923 when she had the awe-inspiring experience of shaking hands with President Coolidge, there was discreet, but never dedicated, acceptance of the Soviet regime, there was staunch endurance in German-occupied Yalta during the war, and then, in 1953, moving ninetieth birthday celebrations on the Moscow Art Theatre's stage. None of this is more than agreeable chit-chat; the mind keeps drifting sadly back to Anton Pavlovich: what use would have made of all the years denied him?

Such skinned or forgotten letters indeed!

Wishful thinking this may have been, but the miracle (and it is the word Sir Rupert uses today) was achieved in a decade. He sold his publishing business, moved to Yorkshire to the Old Rectory at Marske-in-Swaledale, and began to write in five.

One dominant theme apparent in all his work is that Sir Rupert likes the people he has written about or edited. "A successful biographer needs love or affection for his subject", he believes, "if you lack either then I think it shows. Lady Longfellow's recent life of Wilfrid Blunt is a case in point—he obviously became fond of him as she wrote, and the result is

been enough in his time as a publisher to have sold out in

its first edition of 2,000 copies, at £6.95.

Today's publishing economics demanded that John Murray should order a first printing of 3,500 copies at £6.95, and so far not quite 3,000 of these have sold in a year. But the signs are that the following for these letters is burgeoning, indeed they show all the signs of becoming a literary cult, so that sales of the second volume, even with its price increased to £8.95 will surely exceed those of the first.

What I really like—and it may sound pretentious—is making order out of chaos. When Hugh Walpole died there were trunk loads of unsorted papers and letters as well as a detailed diary which he kept from 1904 until his death in 1941. It was most satisfying—quite apart from anything else—to sort things out.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Sir Rupert is himself a very orderly person—the Old Rectory contains his library of some 16,000 books and he knows where to find every title.

With so many of his books being published the morning mail to the Old Rectory has shown a steady increase. The first volume of the Lytton Letters has brought more than 200 so far, and the second volume seems bound to increase the flow. People

openly write to say that their letters have changed their lives, recommending reading lists to reflect the enormous range of books and authors that Lytton and Hart-Davis discussed.

Publishing has changed considerably since these letters were written and Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd has been the most responsive to the needs of the novelist R. C. Hutchinson and the poet Martin Skinner which he edited under the title *Two Men of Letters* (Michael Joseph, £7.95) and—most important to him—*The Arms of Time* (Hamish Hamilton, £6.95), a moving memoir of the short and tragic life of his mother, the elder sister of Duff Cooper. The book, he says, he planned for 50 years

and wrote in five.

Such circumspection would hardly have been necessary in the fifties. The enthusiasm Sir Rupert menibus included rave reviews in the *Sunday Times* (from Raymond Mortimer) and in *The Times* (from Philip Ziegler), which would have been enough in his time as a publisher to have sold out in

its first edition of 2,000 copies at £6.95.

As far as Sir Rupert's first titles are concerned, he recalls, even if I didn't always know how to get it, but printers responded. If the binding of one of his first titles, *Sealskin Trousers*, a collection of stories by Eric Linklater, seems unusual, it is because Sir Rupert saw a sample of the wartime cloth and preferred the texture of it inside out, and thus it was bound.

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Today in Swaledale his freelance literary work is by no means over. The *Sassoon diaries* will be published by Faber, the first volume, he recalls, was going to be £12. He should also be a third volume of the *Lytton Hart-Davis Letters*, followed by the letters of William Plomer, best remembered for his work in editing the *Kilver* diaries. And all the time further Oscar Wilde letters are coming to light. More than 180 new ones have turned up since his original collection in 1952, and these should one day form a volume of their own.

No wonder then that William Plomer called Rupert Hart-Davis "the king of editors".

15

The king of editors and the people he likes best



In October, 1955, Rupert Hart-Davis, 48, a publisher and author of a highly regarded biography of Hugh Walpole, wrote to George Lytton, a retired Eton schoolmaster:

If I had no family (bless them) or other ties and responsibilities I should chuck publishing tomorrow and live in a two-roomed cottage in the Yorkshire Dales relying for my livelihood on freelance literary work. I know exactly how little can be earned in this way, but I have few expensive tastes (only books really), I could read all the great books which now I have only skimmed or forgotten or never read, and then I'd write you letters indeed!

Wishful thinking this may have been, but the miracle (and it is the word Sir Rupert uses today) was achieved in a decade. He sold his publishing business, moved to Yorkshire to the Old Rectory at Marske-in-Swaledale, and began to write in five.

One dominant theme apparent in all his work is that Sir Rupert likes the people he has written about or edited. "A successful biographer needs love or affection for his subject", he believes, "if you lack either then I think it shows. Lady Longfellow's recent life of Wilfrid Blunt is a case in point—he obviously became fond of him as she wrote, and the result is

been enough in his time as a publisher to have sold out in

its first edition of 2,000 copies at £6.95.

Today's publishing economics demanded that John Murray should order a first printing of 3,500 copies at £6.95, and so far not quite 3,000 of these have sold in a year. But the signs are that the following for these letters is burgeoning, indeed they show all the signs of becoming a literary cult, so that sales of the second volume, even with its price increased to £8.95 will surely exceed those of the first.

What I really like—and it may sound pretentious—is making order out of chaos. When Hugh Walpole died there were trunk loads of unsorted papers and letters as well as a detailed diary which he kept from 1904 until his death in 1941. It was most satisfying—quite apart from anything else—to sort things out.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, Sir Rupert is himself a very orderly person—the Old Rectory contains his library of some 16,000 books and he knows where to find every title.

With so many of his books being published the morning mail to the Old Rectory has shown a steady increase. The first volume of the Lytton Letters has brought more than 200 so far, and the second volume seems bound to increase the flow. People

openly write to say that their letters have changed their lives, recommending reading lists to reflect the enormous range of books and authors that Lytton and Hart-Davis discussed.

Publishing has changed considerably since these letters were written and Rupert Hart-Davis Ltd has been the most responsive to the needs of the novelist R. C. Hutchinson and the poet Martin Skinner which he edited under the title *Two Men of Letters* (Michael Joseph, £7.95) and—most important to him—*The Arms of Time* (Hamish Hamilton, £6.95), a moving memoir of the short and tragic life of his mother, the elder sister of Duff Cooper. The book, he says, he planned for 50 years

and wrote in five.

Such circumspection would hardly have been necessary in the fifties. The enthusiasm Sir Rupert menibus included rave reviews in the *Sunday Times* (from Raymond Mortimer) and in *The Times* (from Philip Ziegler), which would have been enough in his time as a publisher to have sold out in

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Ion Trewin

The Times Cook



Shona Crawford Poole

Talking stock

Do you keep a stockpot, feed it with a澎湃 economy on bones and trimmings, and boil it daily? I confess I do not, but I do not know what a proper stockpot is an ideal of good housekeeping as impractical as baking all my own bread. Cookery books, especially the serious kind with no pictures, have a sneaky way of implying that stock cubes will never do, though their instructions for making stock often require enough meat to a cube is what her specifies.

Two views of the options open to Mrs Thatcher at today's critical Dublin summit

The EEC budget crisis: is our oil the answer?

The crisis over Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, which will dominate today's Dublin summit meeting, and threatens to disrupt the Community, owes its origin in part to the unforeseen transformation North Sea oil discoveries have made to the United Kingdom economy. If the North Sea has contributed to the problem, can it also contribute to the solution?

First, let us admit—what has been a serious student of the situation has so far denied—that the British have a strong case for some alleviation of the budget burden. It is scandalous that one of the Community's three poorest countries should be having to shoulder the biggest financial contribution. If Mrs Thatcher gets no satisfaction at Dublin, she will be entitled to use Britain's membership to block all Community measures which are not strictly in Britain's interest.

On the other hand, that would be a game which all would lose. There must be a better way to solve the problem. And, since the EEC is a club in which nobody gets "out now"—least of all when the French are sitting across the table—it is not too soon to start considering what kind of arguments might be struck which would unblock the deadlock.

Seen from London, this may seem a plausible and illusory approach. Why should one have to offer concessions in order to right what is plainly an unpleased injustice? Especially to France, which is in breach of the Rome treaty in its refusal to accept English law?

There are two ways of looking at the crisis. The first is to focus on the common agricultural policy, rapidly escalating out of control. One reason why

Britain's budget contribution has risen faster than anybody anticipated is that the CAP, in which the United Kingdom is Europe's biggest food importer, is taking more than 70 per cent of the total EEC budget instead of the 50 or 60 per cent which was expected by this time when Britain joined the Community.

The other starting point, however, is to look at what has gone wrong with the terms negotiated by the Wilson government before the 1975 referendum on British membership of the EEC. After all, the Community spent many months renegotiating Britain's membership, with the main intention of ensuring that the United Kingdom would not be forced to shoulder an unfair burden. The British government at that time expressed itself satisfied with the terms. That is one reason why even Britain's friends across the Channel view our present indignation with less than Labour ones, our stock will sink even lower.

At that time, Britain had not started to reap the full benefit of North Sea oil. What Britain's negotiators were concerned about was the effect on the balance of payments of excessive EEC payments. So the ceiling on United Kingdom payments into the EEC coffers was related to the total strength of the balance of payments and not to relative living standards.

This mechanism for ensuring a payback of excessive British contributions is irrelevant now, for the revenues from the North Sea ensure a strong pound irrespective of our payments to the EEC. So our case has to be made on different grounds. But, having been through the exercise once at

our behest on one set of rules, our partners can be forgiven a lack of enthusiasm for doing it again under a new set—especially as none of them is blessed with substantial oil reserves as we are.

So the view tends to be that if we are so poor in spite of our oil wealth, it must be our fault; why should we expect our partners to bail us out all over again? This may be unfair, but it is understandable. Mrs Thatcher has done well to force the issue under the noses of her colleagues; but if she continues to demand complete satisfaction without offering anything in return, she risks not only losing her case, but also—what may, in the long run be even more damaging—squandering the goodwill her government has so far earned in the EEC for its more constructive attitude compared to its predecessor. If the Europeans come to feel that at the end of the day Conservative British politicians are no less bickering and insular than Labour ones, our stock will sink even lower.

The reason why Britain appears to get a poor hearing even when it has a good case is that its presentation tends to be negative and petty. What its colleagues want is some indication that we share the vision of what a united European Community could some day become. Recently they have come to believe that they might some day get it from Mrs Thatcher's government. If this belief should wither in a welter of recriminations over the size and shape of the budget, it will do us no good.

So what should Mrs Thatcher be prepared to offer in return for satisfaction on the budget? One thing she should not do is give the impression that our case can be

settled by a solution lies in the North Sea.

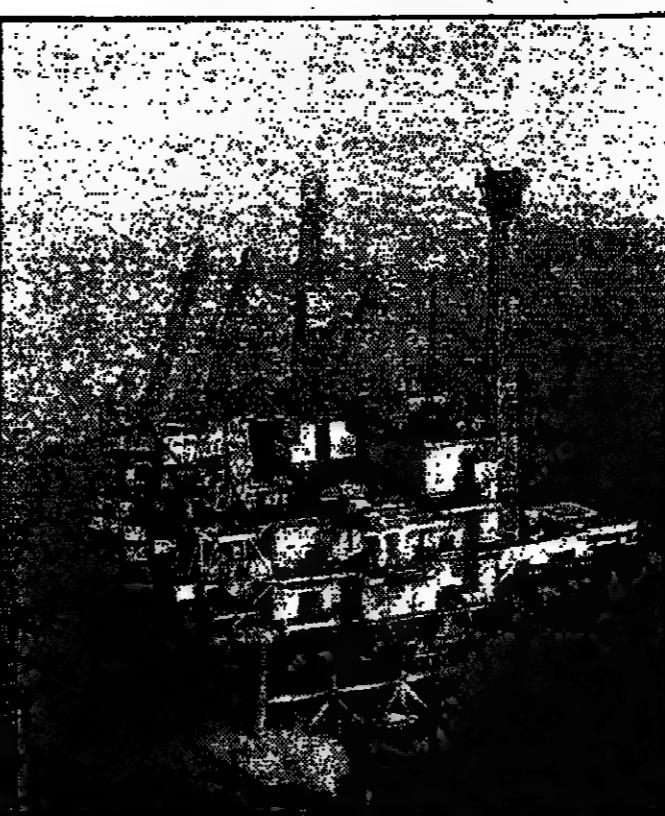
met simply by bigger drawings on the various Community funds, such as the regional and social funds. These, after all, have to come out of the total EEC budget. Big enough transfers of funds to correct the present imbalance could only come from a further increase in the budget (which would be unpopular with all member-states, as well as putting new constraints on the United Kingdom), or by transfers from other fund recipients (which would be resisted strongly by the Irish and Italians, and would be hard to justify when still poorer countries like Greece, Spain and Portugal join the EEC, or by cuts in other spending. The only area of significance is the common agricultural policy.

Thus there can be no solution to the problem of the EEC budget which does not involve an attack on the CAP. This is not just a problem for Britain. Without major changes in the CAP, the Community institutions will run out of money some time in the next two years.

So Mrs Thatcher should certainly support any moves to reform the CAP. But this will not be achieved overnight and by itself will not solve the budget problem.

So what can Mrs Thatcher offer as part of a package to start the overdue reform of the CAP and at the same time reduce the United Kingdom's contributions to the EEC budget significantly? One painless but emotively important gesture would be to offer to join the European Monetary System. This might help to convince our continental colleagues that the European spirit is not quite dead in Britain.

But the real key to a solution lies in the North Sea.



North Sea oil: a share for Europe?

There are two issues here: fish and oil—where Britain is seen by her partners as acting in a selfish, non-European manner. Of the two, oil is more important; but the refusal of the United Kingdom to negotiate a common fisheries policy has been a significant factor. It is true that the fish were a little ahead of the Six before Britain joined the EEC. The EEC does not suit our interests. But as part of an overall package we could seek an acceptable compromise.

The biggest grievance which our fellow EEC members have against us, however, is our refusal to regard our North Sea oil as a European as well as a national asset. We have adopted a policy of high oil prices; we have not been prepared to give price or supply priority to EEC members; we have allowed our own

Michael Shanks

Bernard Levin concludes his series: today, the dangers to man and his liberty

If hell is your choice, choose it

not be too much to say that his argument can be summarized thus: that men must be able to choose to go to hell, and that those who destroy that choice are in fact ensuring that he goes to hell without the option.

Choice is a moral question at bottom, its economic and political forms being only a reflection of that truth. And what is so valuable about Mr Eaton's is the way in which he makes no concessions at all to restore that freedom of those whose material conditions entail no such sufferings, but to limit the freedom of choice of the sufferers themselves—to limit, indeed, their need to choose.

Mark the noun as well as the verb: the most refreshing thing about King of the Castle is Mr Eaton's attitude that choice is not a right but a necessity, since it is man's simplest and most effective means of demonstrating his uniqueness. And it is the removal of that need always in what other people think are the best interests of those whose need is to be removed, which constitutes our greatest present danger.

That is the kind of thing I have been saying for some time; but Mr Eaton goes significantly further. It would

beautiful, and because they reflect the patterns of another place, a more enduring realm, projected into these fragile tattered and overwrought forms, the possibility of being something infinitely more than a short-lived creature of this short-lived earth, just as a seed contains in virtuality a great virtue.

Early parading behind the mask of justice is an ugly brute.

In the West Indies when land crabs are caught by the government before being boiled alive, they are placed in a wooden barrel.

Some try to scramble up the sides of the barrel, and a few of them have at least a chance of escape, but the housewife has nothing to fear, since as

she walks past, her dog, with its companions, pulls it down.

Next morning the pot is filled and all are boiled together. Mercifully, crabs have no voice with which to protest their concern.

There is a morality which insists that man's arms must be bound to his sides because some might want to use their fists, and insists that their ankles be tethered because some might want to walk two

feet away from the mask of justice.

But although Mr Eaton's argument is primarily with such weapons, he carries another another in his train.

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feet away from the mask of justice.

That is Mr Eaton's case in a few words, but those quotations do not convey the breadth or the depth of his case, nor the power, clarity and wit of his prose. Nothing but reading his book can do that, but perhaps a few more quotations may help to stimulate an interest in this difference from more temporal viceroys: that his viceregal rule is forever autonomous, with no need or indeed opportunity to refer back to the home government for instructions, but that he will nevertheless be judged according to how he fulfills his prime part in the home government's scheme of things.

A man is all he nothing: a student, a unique mode of existence, of knowledge of God or a more of dust among millions of others. . . . While the clouds come down upon us and the storm rages, we build our sandcastles because they are good in their small way and some are

but the comfort will be abruptly snatched from them if they wish to go on believing that all that is necessary is to seal alternative and more successful policies within the same framework for Mr Eaton makes it impossible to believe that he even makes it impossible to believe that by abandoning the framework we can achieve something that is only possible by replacing it. And as the paragraph which he sums up that part of his argument I shall retire and let him put his own case in full and in his own words:

Standing, as it were, at the Government's door, Mr Eaton's words: he prior reduces the price and he is offering his wares for nothing: divine justice is a myth, hell is a wicked superstition, prayer less important than decent behaviour.

He has diagnosed our present condition with ruthless honesty. He has prescribed no fail-safe cure; he recognizes, like every such teacher, that there are as many roads to health as there are seekers truly desirous of finding it and willing to pay the price. But the value and ultimate virtue of his book is that it makes it impossible for the reader to accept the diagnosis and deny the need of a cure: those who admit the ruinous nature of the policies that have brought us to our present condition will find much to comfort them in this book.

We are witnessing now an attempt to eliminate the darker, more painful aspects of human living no longer by rising above them (and thereby gaining in stature), but either by abolishing them—which is impossible since they be in the nature of

seen it; none of us has seen it.

He said the actor was not worried about his own scenes, but about what else might have been firmed into the film. "It is certainly not a case one associates with a pornographic movie. Unfortunately no one knows what they might have done with it."

A report in the magazine *Screen International* suggested that audiences in Italy were not particularly scandalized by the film, and that in Rome, at least, only a few people left the theatre in the middle of the film.

At the moment Mr Selinger said they were all waiting to find out whether the film was going to be shown in Britain. No one seemed to be resisting the prospect.

Shape, the organization which introduces artists into such institutions as hospitals and prisons, will see one of the fruits of its efforts at a variety performance for the handicapped at the Commonwealth Institute, London, on Sunday: among the performers, who include Brian Rix and Ballet Rambert, will be a group of boys from Huntercombe hospital who formed a steel band after hearing a jazz performance arranged by Shape.

Tempting for Drabble

The novelist Margaret Drabble has just taken on the time-consuming task of re-editing the *Oxford Companion to English Literature*, first published in 1932 and containing some 40,000 entries.

I debated the idea for a long time before signing a five-year contract," she said. "It is a big project and I shall have some assistants to help me check every one of the entries and decide what to cut out and what to put in."

In the end, I could not resist the idea of going back to university. It's like doing

Making unity a weapon

Ronald Butt

Mrs Thatcher is, of course, a supporter of the European Community, but she is not so much a fanatic member of the European Club to which the best sort of Englishmen have been expected to belong in the past couple of decades.

From Mrs Thatcher's European but not in for Mr Heath was with the community, its institutions vision and Mr Peter Walser, fervent anti-marketeer in the early Sixties who, though of Mr Heath's closest supporters, is now putting strong resistance to the people baying to pay for the ship) through the Labour

massists, including Mr Carl

all the way to the Labour

there is no disagreement.

Nobody is going to say we can, or should, pay £1,000m. What is

there is fundamental agreement throughout the British

This creates a very dif

sition in Britain from

which existed when our

countries were divided neatly

pro- and

Moroccans.

There are few "Europe

so passionate today that

are prepared to pay the

or anything like it. As

passionate anti-Europeans

find their general position

summed in the present go

ment's resistance to paying

It is not that there is

change in Mrs Thatcher's

to the exit does

rather than British resi

point at which it could

make the Community

whole.

As Mrs Thatcher set

Britain's refusal to pay

£1,000m presents the other

serious a political prob

the economic one—ours

face. It is most unlikely

the Prime Minister will

what she wants for Brita

and it is equally

that she will not rest co

with what she is likely

to do.

The British resistance

therefore, go on after

it may take the case of di

tion of the Community

in it, least of all Mrs

Thatcher's, is reaching to

take Britain out of Europe.

Nobody, indeed, believes that "walking out" is even an option. The Cabinet contains

one former anti-Ma

Keen, from the resistance

to the Treasury.

Nowdays, Mr Biffen seems

quite content to wait for

expansion of the Community

to weaken, *de facto*, its sup

national aspects.

Overwhelmingly, the Conserv

ative Party, which, after some

agonizing, took Britain into

Europe, wants the Community

to work. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher

herself sees the possibility of

an eventual political place for

the Community in Western

Europe's defences which, in

some ways, goes beyond the

imaginings of the more conven

tional British "Europeans".

On the other hand, it is now



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHAT'S THE HARM?

Pornography is deeply offensive to some people, depending on the strength of the brawn and the delicacy of the stomach. Pornography affords pleasure to some people who extract sexual stimulation from it. Pornography is a source of profit to those who manufacture and deal in it. If that were all there is to it, the standing of the law in the latter would be clear and fairly simple. It would seek to protect those whose pornography offends from the nuisance of having it thrust under their noses and of aving the public scene in which they move disfigured by a splash of its commercial exploitation. The law would not seek to interfere otherwise with its availability or trade. Some restriction: no prohibition. Add a sort of protection for juveniles which the law affords men against the demon drink, and also a thoroughgoing censoring system for the public showing of films, and you have the bones of what is recommended by Professor Bernard Williams's committee.

Crucial questions

It is a solution which has much to commend it, assuming for the sake of argument that the legal provisions would work in the way intended—a large assumption in anything to do with obscenity. It prevents the public bruising of feelings. It allows private gratification, enlarges freedom of choice, reduces the significance of inherently unstable legal distinctions between classes of material, excuses the law and law enforcement from a duty to suppress the unsuppressible, and somewhat reduces the scope for corruption of the police.

There is, however, one very noticeable omission from the scheme. It does not purport to ward adult persons or society in general from harm (except a restricted protection of actors or models for pornographic productions from actual physical harm). This is because in the view held by the authors throughout most of their report pornography, including the pornography of violence, does not give rise to either of a type or of a agree which requires that the law should intervene. In this their scheme departs radically from all previous attempts to regulate these matters by statute: common law. Those sections of the report—and they are substantial—which consider the questions of the harm done by pornography and the protective action of law are the crucial sections: for the radical departure that is proposed stands or falls by reference to those questions.

First, harm to whom? There are so many ways of going to the dogs, so many influences abroad to base sensibility, corrupt the imagination and warp the personality that even those who are fear in their own minds that pornography has those effects may hesitate to single it out for suppression in order to protect from themselves those who like that kind of thing.

Then there is the harm of a more general kind which is the

words of the committee concerns the infecting of society with a disregard for decency, a lack of respect for others, a taste for the base, a contempt for restraint and responsibility—what is sometimes called cultural pollution. On this the committee justly observes that such arguments should not be discounted just because they are not based on direct tangible effects. Long-term effects on civilization and culture are self-evidently important and should be considered as carefully as one can, even if they cannot be quantified and demonstrated." But this is an area in which it is especially difficult to distinguish cause from effect, symptom from disease, the significant from the superficial; and it is an area to which an open, plural, changing society will be cautious in admitting prohibitive law-making. For rescue from moral and cultural decline a society must turn elsewhere than to the criminal law.

There remains a kind of harm, which is in principle identifiable and to which the law commonly pays attention. This is the harm which may come to A from B's indulgence in pornography. If pornography tends to a significant degree to excite its addicts, or actively reinforce their proclivity to criminal or anti-social behaviour which does harm to others, then there would be grounds enough for the law to interfere; suspicion falling principally not on the merely lewd or lascivious, but on the pornography of sadism where the sexual drive is fused with cruelty and violence.

A newcomer to the controversy, if there is one, might expect the medical, behavioural and social sciences between them to return a clear answer to what appears to be a fairly simple question: does indulgence in sadistic pornography tend to provoke behaviour of a similar character in a significant proportion of cases? He will be disappointed. He may be disappointed too by the committee's handling of admittedly unsatisfactory evidence.

It starts from the dubious premise that in order to justify legal intervention "the causation of harm should lie beyond all reasonable doubt". That imposes a heavy burden of proof when the proposition is not to impose a new prohibition but to regulate those which has existed for a very long time in most literate societies; when the prohibition accords with mimetic theories of moral development from Plato to A. N. Whitehead; and when the material to be prohibited is of no intrinsic merit whatever. A significant risk of harm occurring would seem to be a good enough reason for prohibitory action (provided the action, while remaining proportionate to the mischief, can be effective).

From that starting point the committee proceeds to inspect with cool scepticism the evidence presented to it. From its expert witnesses it looks for proof, not mere misgivings, about the effects of pornography on behaviour. It finds that clinical evidence points in opposite directions.

THE VOICE OF THE SAUDI PAST

Five days after the attack on the Great Mosque in Mecca, it remains far from clear what exactly happened, or indeed what is happening now. The Saudi authorities have shown their usual extreme discretion about their domestic affairs. Their first reaction—perhaps an instinctive one—was to cut off all telephone and telex links between Saudi Arabia and the rest of the world. Even since these were restored they have given an absolute minimum of information about what was going on. This policy has, as is usual, been counterproductive, giving the rest of the world the impression that there must be a very serious crisis and encouraging the wildest speculation about its nature. Some of this speculation, in Iran and elsewhere, has been deliberately inflammatory, with the tragic results that are not known. The vagueness of the official Saudi statements does not excuse that, but it remains at least possible that fuller and more precise statements on the first day would have forestalled the destruction and bloodshed which occurred in Pakistan and elsewhere on subsequent days.

In other places, uncertainty encouraged speculation that the seizure of the mosque had been carried out by partisans of the Iranian revolution, presumably Shia Muslims either from Iran

or, more alarmingly, from eastern Saudi Arabia itself, where many Shias are employed in the oil industry. Such a development would be deeply worrying not only to the Saudi regime but, perhaps even more so, to some of its neighbours in the Gulf whose Shia populations have shown signs of unrest since Imam Khomeini came to power in Iran: the most vulnerable states in this respect are Bahrain and Iraq. It transpires, however, that the uprising in Mecca was not the work of Shias, but of a new Mahdist sect which has arisen among the Bedouin tribes of central Arabia, apparently led by students or recent drop-outs from the faculties of Islamic law.

One can see that this discovery may in fact be more alarming to Saudi Arabia's rulers than a Shia revolt would be. The Shias in Saudi Arabia are a despised minority. But the religious fervour of the desert tribes represents the very origin of the Saudi state. It is almost as though King Khalid's ancestors had returned to haunt him and to reproach him with the extent to which the Kingdom, under the influence of wealth and of contact with the West, has fallen away from the values that they proclaimed. The new Mahdi must be considered a schismatic, but he hails from the heartland of Wahhabi orthodoxy, and his action recalls that of the

four concentric zones of the ninth circle of Dante's *Inferno* represent, in descending order, treachery to kindred, treachery to party, treachery to rulers and benefactors. Brutus and Cassius and Judas are crucified in the three mouths of Satan, who looms out of the very

centre of lowest Hell: Judas, the betrayer of the benefactor of mankind, Brutus and Cassius, the betrayers of the founders of the Roman Empire, an institution divinely ordained, as Dante believed, to govern the world. Where did E. M. Forster get the idea that Brutus and Cassius were thus penalized for betraying their friend rather than their country? There must have been some strange interpretations of Dante among his friends.

It has been noted that Professor Blunt expressed no repentance for his treachery but on the contrary sought to justify it by references

to conscience and loyalty. Dante has provided a striking image of this aspect of the sin he most abhorred. At the very moment of choosing treachery, the traitor's soul leaves his body and is lodged in the ice of the ninth circle, being replaced on earth by a demon. Traitors thus die to humanity before they are dead and repentence is impossible. This may have been an unorthodox theological, but it appears to be borne out psychologically.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA REYNOLDS,
220 Milton Road,
Cambridge
November 25

Dante and treachery

From Dr Barbara Reynolds

Sir, E. M. Forster was not to be trusted on Italian literature. Not only did he assume that I promised spousal contained passionate avowals of love (see his short story, *The Eternal Moment*), he was also wrong about Dante.

The four concentric zones of the ninth circle of Dante's *Inferno* represent, in descending order, treachery to kindred, treachery to party, treachery to rulers and benefactors. Brutus and Cassius and Judas are crucified in the three mouths of Satan, who looms out of the very

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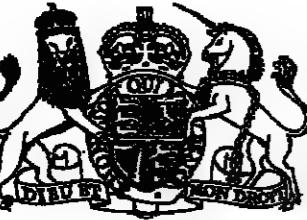
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COURT CIRCULAR

Forthcoming marriages

Mr. M. J. Baker and Miss J. M. Macie are announced between Martin, eldest son of the late Sir Stanley Baker and of Lady Baker, of Parsons Green, London, and Jennie, elder daughter of Mr. Colin Macle of Attadale, Strathcarron, Wester Ross.

Dr. C. Borland and Dr. H. M. J. Platner

The engagement is announced between Colin, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Borland, of Cossall Lodge, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, and Christine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril E. C. R. Platner, of Great Smeales, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire.

Mr. R. M. E. Parker and Miss A. M. Kirwan

The engagement is announced between Richard Mayo Roydon, son of the late Commander H. C. Parker, RN, and Mrs. A. F. Parker, OBE, of Wellow, Isle of Wight, and Aileen Mary, daughter of Captain J. F. Kirwan and Mrs. E. F. Kirwan, of Crawley, Sussex.

Mr. O. F. F. Rashleigh Becker and Dr. E. S. Walsh

The marriage has been arranged between Philip Rashleigh Becker, FRCS, elder son of Mr. Jack Rashleigh Becker, MS, FRCS, and Mrs. Rosemary Becker, of London.

Mr. J. A. S. des Forges and Miss A. M. Evans

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John des Forges, of Winchester, and Judith, only daughter of the late Lieutenant Commander K. N. Hoare, RN (red), and Mrs. Hoare, of Weymouth, Dorset.

Mr. R. N. M. Eggar and Miss J. E. Evans

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Commander N. D. M. Eggar, RN, and Mrs. Susan, eldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John P. Walsh, of Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland.

Mr. C. A. Hiscock and Dr. C. M. E. Rubin

The engagement is announced between Dominic, second son of Major and Mrs. C. A. Hiscock, of Ward, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. Evans, of Weston Zoyland, Somerset.

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The honeymoon will be spent abroad.

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Frank Kermode, 60; Mr. Gordon Rees, 70; Sir David Steel, 63; Sir Peter Tannatt, 69.

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The Prince of Wales opens and tours Greater Manchester Fire Service Headquarters, Salford, 9.25, opens and tours Farnham Royal Hospital, 2.30, visits Burnley General Hospital, 2.30, visits Burnley Engineering Products, 3.45.

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Children's concert: Colston Hall, Bristol, 10.30 and 2.

Latest wills

Residue for Royal Literary Fund

Mr. Alan Richard Turpin, of Wiltshire, left £19,571 net after bequeath to the Royal Literary Fund.

Mrs. Clara Doris Barber, of Hampton Hill, Middlesex, left £86,279 net, to the C. R. Trust, C/o the Institute of Physics.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid; tax not disclosed):

Always, Mr. Richard Williams, of Bristol, £1,119,932

Frank Archibald of Norwich, £137,651

Harris, Mr. Charles Llewelyn Lidstone, of Cheltenham, £127,957

Bartley, Mr. William Henry Burton, £17,513

Mr. Edward Wiltshire, of Cranleigh, Surrey, £133,229

Games in the Snow

— a joyful winter's scene.

This beautiful hand-coloured enamel box will be produced in Birston only until

31 December 1979.

£18.90, plus 50p U.K. post

Overseas Airmail £2.30

HALCYON DAYS

14 Broad Street, London W1Y 1AA

This Month's Halcyon Days Enamel

Mr. E. N. Maguire and Miss E. J. Arlington

The engagement is announced between Robin Nigell, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Maguire, of Rokeby, Tadworth, Surrey, and Rosemary Jane, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Arlington, of Swichope Hall, Birkbeck, Lincolnshire.

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Conservation awards

Britain has won one of five medals

in the first of 28 diplomas of merit

awarded by Europa Nostra, an international federation of conservation societies. The awards were announced yesterday by Lord Duncan-Sandys, president of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The medal was won by the Scottish Special Housing Association for a rehabilitation scheme in Jedburgh. The concert in the Royal Concert Hall, Edinburgh, 2.30, visits Burnley General Hospital, 2.30, visits Burnley Engineering Products, 3.45.

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Science report

Microbiology: Vaccine production

By the Staff of Nature

A new approach to the production of influenza vaccine has been opened by scientists at the Wellcome Research Laboratories, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The ultimate aim of their work is to produce a vaccine which is safe, effective and inexpensive, and which can be given to the general public.

The vaccine is produced by a process which is claimed to be more effective and less expensive than the traditional method of growing the virus in eggs.

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The new



EEC moves closer to treaty with Comecon

The European Economic Community has moved nearer a formal agreement with the council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon), the Soviet trading block, but after three days of negotiations in Moscow, there is still a fundamental disagreement over the basic issue of East-West trade.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the European Commission, said yesterday that some progress had been made in the wording of the preamble to any treaty. The two sides had also agreed to exchange information regularly and to cooperate in a number of fields.

Chinese visit

A group of Chinese executives from the Canton Electronics Bureau is visiting Hongkong to discuss industrial cooperation with local and foreign-owned electronics companies, and study production and marketing methods.

Approximately fifty companies based in Hongkong have signed agreements on processing and assembly operations in thirty of these electronic enterprises during the past year.

Chemicals delay

Plans for the financial salvage of Italy's stricken chemicals industry are still being held up, and SIR, the only company so far to have reached an outline agreement on a rescue programme, is facing the possible breakdown of this project. The chemical workers union FULC yesterday called a nationwide strike in the industry for today, to protest against the continuing delays.

Italy wins Saudi order

Inalimpianti, the state-owned engineering company, and Alimbra, the Saudi company have won a joint order from the Saudi Arabian government to build a desalination plant worth about 24,000m lire (£13.5m) on the Red Sea near Jiddah.

Women 'scapegoats'

Women workers in Caracas, Venezuela, were warned that they could become the 'scapegoats in reckless implementation of new technology', by Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staffs.

Alumina contract

The Soviet Union will import 70,000 tons of iodized alumina next year under contracts worth \$15m (£6.93m). Two companies will supply the alumina as the results of deals at an international trade fair in progress.

Canadian expansion

Mr John Crosbie, the Canadian Finance Minister, has said his December 11 Budget will try to stimulate the economy by encouraging expansion of Canadian industries, especially those which manufacture internationally-traded goods.

Brazil crude record

Brazil's daily oil output rose to a three-year record on October 9 of 180,214 barrels, which companies with a daily average for the nine months ended September 30 of 166,949 barrels.

Norway oil output up

Total production of oil and gas on Norway's continental shelf reached about 31.06 million tonnes of oil equivalents in the first 10 months of this year, against 24.88 million in the same period in 1978.

Civil servants' rise

The French Cabinet had approved a 1.5 per cent increase in civil servants' pay from December. The rise, which is in line with inflation, takes the increase so far this year to 11 per cent.

Cement contract

F. L. Smidt, the Copenhagen cement company, has signed a 1,300m kroner (£16m) contract with the Algerian authorities for building a cement factory, to be finished by 1982 which will have an annual production capacity of one million tonnes.

Credit policy

Credit policy decisions are unlikely to be made after today's meeting of the West German Federal Bank Central Council. It is also probably too early for the bank to disclose its plans for a money supply growth target for next year.

GATT budget raised

Member states of the 84-nation General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) approved a budget of 39.83m Swiss francs (£5.5m) for 1980, a 0.28 per cent increase.

Gulf of Mexico bids

A total of 322 bids on 96 tracts in the western and central areas of the Gulf of Mexico were submitted in New Orleans. The value of these bids was \$4,700m (about £2.350m).

Attempts to strengthen currency and attract foreign capital 'ineffective'

Lack of leverage in oil market weakens yen

Japanese fears of rising inflation are growing in the absence of any effective anti-inflationary measures, for their fears rest more on outside economic and currency developments than internal problems.

At the core of the apprehension is the ever-worsening value of the yen. Compared with a year ago, the value—around 250 to the dollar—is 40 per cent less. Even during the recent months, the yen has depreciated by nearly 20 per cent.

In view of this the current and the more immediate concern of the government and the Bank of Japan is not so much how to counter inevitable price spirals, but how to prevent any further decline in the value of the yen.

However, the decision taken on Tuesday by a worried government to institute a series of foreign exchange and capital decontrol measures in an apparent effort to prevent any further fall of the yen proved to be ineffective. The aim had been to attract foreign currency, at the same time, to preclude any speculative moves. The measures included raising the ceiling on dollar and other foreign currency holdings and flexible operation of the "impact loan" system, but the gain in the yen was short-lived. The market, after a monetary reaction, returned to the pre-announcement stage.

Oil is mainly behind the currency devaluation. Japan depends on imports for up to 99 per cent of its oil, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of its energy, and is the direct cause of the currency problem.

The disturbing element in this connection is that while the yen is intrinsically pegged to the dollar, the declining dollar value does not reflect itself on the

other main currencies such as the Deutsche mark and Swiss franc rise as the dollar sinks, the yen moves independently of dollar fluctuations. The basic vulnerability of the yen, caused by the absence of any leverage in the oil market is held accountable.

In view of such currency movement, the Bank of Japan was reported yesterday to be considering another rise in the official discount rate which now stands at 6.25 per cent a year.

It is the third increase in a year and the rate has gone up 275 per cent since April.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), have both tried to dispel any fears that could panic consumers into stockpiling. After their bitter experience of the first big oil crisis, earlier in the 1970s—both agencies have repeatedly assured the public that oil reserves are sufficient (102 days of reserves now) and that there will be "no shortage of commodities in the foreseeable future".

With or without government assurances, however, commodity prices have begun showing an ominous upwards trend. The wholesale price index, which remained below 1 per cent annual rise during the early part of the year (0.8 per cent in February and 0.1 per cent in March) jumped to 10.9 per cent in August and as much as 12.6 per cent in September.

While this increase has not affected consumer prices yet, the upward trend is clearly there. The lowest rise of 2.5 per cent during the year, observed both in February and March, jumped to 4.0 per cent in July and 4.2 per cent in September over the corresponding months of 1978.

Dearer imports caused by the cheaper dollar value are also a big contributing factor to the prospect of a further price spiral.

The mounting balance of payments deficits which stood at \$12,300m in 1978 as against \$3,140m in 1977 are estimated at substantially more in 1979.

Deficits in October amounted to \$1,381m which was the third largest of the year (\$1,446m in January and \$1,648m in August).

Petroleum payments account for a large portion of increasing deficits. It is estimated that \$23,423m payments for oil imports (270 million tons) in 1978 will increase at least by 50 per cent in 1979.

As a result, gold and foreign exchange holdings which amounted to \$33,000m at the end of 1978 now stand at \$25,500m, which, at the current rate of decrease of \$2,800m.

It is against this background that the government has started compiling a national budget for fiscal 1980 which starts in April. According to Finance Ministry sources, the total of the general account for the new fiscal year may be held down to some 42,700,000m yen or a 10 per cent increase over the current plan, the smallest growth rate for years.

It is thought extremely doubtful that the growth rate of 5 to 6 per cent as envisaged by the government would be achieved. According to a survey conducted by the Daiwa Bank, the growth rate in fiscal 1980 would not be more than 2.1 per cent (real) which compares with the 5.6 per cent in 1978 and 5.9 per cent in 1979.

Such a budgetary framework, plus the currency behaviour and price rises would, in the eyes of most observers, mean a depressive economy, inflationary currency, and a more severe stagflation than has been observed in the past.

Kosi Nakamura
in Tokyo

Toyota (GB) seeks site for HQ and expansion

By Edward Townsend

Toyota (GB), the British arm of Japan's biggest car maker, is seeking a 20-acre site in the south of England for a new headquarters and warehousing.

The company says it wants a site able to accommodate 400,000 sq ft of warehousing and 40,000 sq ft of offices, somewhere between London and Swindon, but is not prepared at present to go into detail on its investment intentions.

Toyota (GB) employs 320 people at four sites: a head office at Croydon, an export division nearby, a parts depot at Crawley and an import depot at Sheerness. It plans to combine most of its operations under one roof.

A spokesman said the move had been prompted by increasing demand for parts and service as a result of Toyota's growing car sales in the United Kingdom.

It is also clear that the company is planning for expansion in the hope that the present voluntary restriction on imports of Japanese cars eventually will be lifted.

Japanese car manufacturers have maintained their share of the United Kingdom market this year at about 10.11 per cent. Datsun, the leader, has about 1.8 per cent of new car sales, followed by Toyota with almost 2 per cent.

Officials of the British and Japanese motor industries last met in Tokyo in September and it appears that the "understanding" which restricts Japanese car sales here will be continued during 1980. A spokesman for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said the issue would not be discussed again before the start of next year.

Datsun, which has remained relatively quiet this year on the issue, said yesterday it hoped 1980 would be the last year in which its sales were held back.

A spokesman said: "The reason is to help British Leyland, but all we look at are the hundreds of thousands of EEC cars that are pouring in to fill the gap."

Japan's exports of assembled vehicles in October rose 2.8 per cent to 410,300 from 399,100 in September and were up sharply by 32.4 per cent from 309,900 a year earlier. The AC, which encouraged the extension of collective bargaining arrangements or bear the cost



Mr Roy Close: Call for changes in Employment Protection Act

Managers divided on employment protection

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

A split has opened in management ranks over the question of whether small companies should be given special exemption in government proposals to alter employment protection legislation.

A majority of the British Institute of Management's membership of about 65,000 agrees with the proposals that new companies with fewer than 20 employees should be exempt from the unfair dismissal provisions of the Act for the first two years of trading.

But a significant minority think that the provision would be open to abuse and that it would be better to encourage small companies by other means.

After consultation with BIM membership and with the affiliated Institution of Industrial Managers, Mr Roy Close, BIM's director general, wrote to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, yesterday giving the collective views of the union's central executive.

Comments were also invited in suggestions that small companies should be given exemption from maternity provisions.

The consultation showed that management is unanimously in agreement with the Government that the provision in Schedule II of the Employment Protection Act, which provides for wage claims concerning "general levels of terms and conditions" to be adjudicated by the Central Arbitration Committee, should be scrapped.

Mr Close advocates its repeal on the grounds that it is "inflationary, disruptive to differential and the genuineness of productivity agreements, and can undermine collective bargaining arrangements".

Statutory provisions relating to union recognition should also be repealed, the BIM says, and the settlement of disputes in this area left to voluntary action by ACAS.

Mr Close said doubts were expressed about the impartiality of ACAS under SI (2) of the Act, which encouraged the extension of collective bargaining.

White, not unanimously against it, BIM respondents regard the principle with much reservation. They point out that an employer has either to make temporary employment arrangements or bear the cost

of training a new employee, and that pregnancy can be to some extent regarded as the choice of the individual.

Mr Howard Perrow, Co-operative Union chairman and chief executive officer of the Greater Lancashire Society, first suggested the idea at the Co-operative Congress earlier this year; Mr Perrow has since said he thought the base of such an argument must be the Co-operative.

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CWS to join talks on merging with retailers

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

The Co-operative Wholesale Society, which accounts for more than half the Co-operative movement's trading turnover, yesterday effectively agreed to join talks aimed at creating a single body to run the Co-op.

The CWS, which supplies the Co-op's retail societies and Co-operative Retail Services (CRS), the largest retailer in the movement, are being invited to meet the Co-operative Union—the movement's coordinating body—to consider the relevance of the proposals.

Speculation that the CWS might not favour proposals for the creation of a Co-op Great Britain had surrounded a meeting of the union's central executive in Manchester yesterday.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No 'ulterior motives' behind Venezuelan oil announcement

From Señor Francisco R. Parra Sir, The article carried by your correspondent (Mr Michael Francisco (Confusion over size of Venezuelan oil fired—November 28) on Venezuelan oil reserves, is, broadly speaking correct. However, I hope you will

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Iran splits the bankers

ad news, for international bankers, is the growing schism between national bankers over the decision by the United States to freeze official Iranian assets. Yesterday's move by Morgan in West Germany to sequester shares in Krupp and Deutsche Bahn is a further sign of the adhesion of whose loans to Iran are not covered by deposits.

ady some smaller United States banks are at daggers drawn the big New York money centre banks the eventual share-out of Iranian assets in the event of a wholesale default. pean and Japanese banks are increasingly questioning the jurisdiction of United banks over their overseas branchs, where a large proportion of assets are thought to be held. Vir- a man these banks are antipathetic to the idea of declaring Iran in default and are thought to be a number of syndics who non-United States banks decided not to invoke the cross default triggered when Chase Manhattan decision on the \$500m Iranian loan.

Question now is whether the international banking system can stand the strain of legal action that now seems likely to

There are no signs yet of Opec being frightened away from the international capital markets but the future of Eurocurrency loans could well if the United States banks do not

be moment though the good news is straight Eurodollar bond market signs of coming back to life after months hibernation brought on rising United States domestic rates.

have already been a number of rate note issues this week, though of the market has been relatively buoyant throughout the summer of the limited protection it provides.

The European Coal and Steel Com- is testing the appetite of the market \$100m seven-year issue, carrying a coupon which falls a point to 104 per cent in the final year. Eurobond investors have been caught

ady this year in early summer when United States interest rates had resulted in a glut of issues, a large on of which are still in the issuing portfolios; and there are still enough about the course of United States rates to make everyone cautious.

while the authorities had relatively access with their latest offering of stock, in spite of the modest fillip market has been given this week in United States prime rates and Eurodollar rates.

stock does, however, remain well in the market and its fate over the stock or so presumably depends fairly on the outcome of the miners' result of which should probably date through the weekend—though the full figures will not be until the middle of next week.

United States interest rates are the market is obviously encouraging, certainly not yet prepared to bet that rates have finally turned, is still rising, as yesterday's per cent in the gold price served to

Importantly, Comet moves into 1980 with a strong balance sheet despite the £13m outflow on Caledonian Holdings and high hopes that the new DIY interests can compensate for any downturn on the durables side. Comet has made £6.3m write-off of goodwill on Caledonian which probably chipped in around £500,000 in the latest year.

Although DIY could be as vulnerable as electrical goods to a spending downturn next year, as competition intensifies, the Timberside operations could be expected to contribute at least £1.5m to next year's total. This suggests that next year's outturn will be similar to the latest result and would ensure Comet its status in a depressed sector.

The latest result represents a fully-taxed p/e ratio of just under 6 and a well-covered yield of 5.4 per cent. That suggests the shares are on the high side in front of what could be the most severe test yet for discount durable retailers like Comet.

Johnson Matthey

Higher precious metal prices

Johnson Matthey's figures are much as expected with profits at £1.5m, for the half year about £2m more than for the same period of last year, largely reflecting higher gold, silver and especially platinum prices. But given such an obvious boost, is Johnson really doing so well?

Some parts of the company—paints and chemicals for example—are vulnerable to the world recession. But its accounting is conservative and does not include paper gains on metals as income.

The company also stands to gain from the market for platinum in catalytic converters. Since all cars sold now in the United States need them, it matters little to Johnson Matthey that American-made cars are selling badly. The converters just go into imports instead—for example Volkswagen, with a subsidiary is closely associated.

On the banking side, foreign exchange dealing proved particularly profitable, and as a result of higher commissions from metal dealing—the bank's main business—and stock increases, the bank's net worth is now £30m.

At the closing price of 155p, up 5p on the day, Johnson yields 6.51 per cent. Even if one takes a very bullish view of metal prices, this seems a reasonable rating.

BPB Industries

Defensive qualities

Profits from its United Kingdom operations still provide over three-quarters of the total (before interest and the share of associates) at BPB Industries; but it was the overseas subsidiaries which pushed the half-time total up by 20 per cent to £21.23m pre-tax.

In particular, the French subsidiary, maintaining the improvement shown in the second half of last year, produced trading profits some £1.75m higher than those for the corresponding period, more than offsetting the downturn in the Republic of Ireland, and the same again loss in the Netherlands paper company.

In the United Kingdom, performance was steady enough, with volume sales of both plasterboard and paper holding up, and a reduction in the losses on wood chipboard to help offset the impact of higher costs on margins elsewhere. Trading profits of the United Kingdom building materials division emerged some 10 per cent higher at £1.1m, while those of the paper and packaging operations were ahead by almost as much at £4.6m.

In spite of the possibilities offered by both the DIY and home improvements markets, there must obviously be great doubt over BPB's capacity to maintain volume sales of plasterboard if the United Kingdom building industry is knocked for six by high interest and mortgage rates. However, the effects of past spending on efficiency, and present monopoly on the group's ability to raise prices, should between them help to check the damage a slump could do to a good profit record.

Anyway the dividend payment, well-nigh doubled at the interim, looks safe enough and attractive, too: even on nothing better than a same-again payment for the second half, the yield at 156p will be almost seven per cent.

Caroline Atkinson

Business Diary: Back pedalling? • Return to sender

obby representatives told by British Rail today whether South Wales is to lift its threat to bicycles on its new trains which come into force on January 6. on the free travel con- bicycles were originally used by Southern in id of the production new two-bike sliding stages. But strong pro- in the growing band of consumers led to the ion of British Rail. Sir Peter Parker and was lifted four days ago, a review of BR.

Sir Peter who gave his blessing to the free ride, commending it as a way of wooing more travellers to railways when it was last six months ago, of the 35,000-strong Touring Club, the of the Earth, and the takers' British Cycling have been jointly press- allow bicycles on the roads as well as better for cycles abroad the high speed trains.

BR conceded free o years ago we were. Now we see this con- sider threat," says CTC secretary Leslie War- Guilford-based club negotiating on behalf of the rail companies and now BR, at its 101 years of life.

Albright and Wilson's David Livingstone: keeping in touch

Livingstone also makes frequent excursions from the third floor of his Knightsbridge office to visit Houston, Texas, where A. & W.'s parent company Tenneco is based.

He has promised to try harder with local contacts and asks his fellow workers to support Tenneco's confidence in the company, despite its recent poor performance, by doing the same.

The resignations last week of the entire National Enterprise Board led by its chairman Sir Leslie Murphy has created a gap which has yet to be filled.

Although the Government was quick to produce a new team for the NER, one of the consequences of the resignations is that next week's meeting of the National Economic

Economic notebook

Is the pound about to slide?

Something odd has been going on in the foreign exchange markets. Sterling is riding high again after its fall this autumn (although not as high as it was in midautumn).

It seems to be buoyed up more by hot air than by any of the so-called "fundamentals" which are supposed to determine exchange rates.

The Treasury is virtually alone among economic forecasters in assuming that the pound will remain stable during 1980. Some fall in the rate next year is almost certain. But it may not be heralded by countries' trade and current account balances.

Britain's inflation rate is now running at about 17% per cent. The Government predicts that this will come down by a few points next year, although there is little evidence to suggest more than a very slight deceleration.

Falling inflation coupled with a strong pound has led to a massive deterioration in Britain's competitiveness of about 20 per cent over the last year. Export profitability has also fallen sharply.

These figures help to explain why, despite North Sea oil, Britain is deep in the red.

If the pound does not fall next year there will be a further erosion in competitiveness and, a consequently poor trade performance. Currency markets must notice this somehow.

Sterling also looks unjustifiably high when comparing money supply growth in Britain and overseas. The London Business School, which believes that relative money growth is an important determinant of exchange rate changes, has said in its latest forecasts that sterling is overvalued on this basis.

Record interest rates in London have combined with North Sea oil-based confidence in Britain to hold up the pound. Attractively high interest rates are likely to remain for some time, and will do their bit to bring in oil funds next year.

But they could be a little tarnished if the risk of a capital depreciation on sterling holding becomes real (because of a fall in the rate).

Uncertainty always surrounds exchange rate predictions.

There is even more than usual uncertainty because of the recent abolition of exchange controls. Some extra private capital outflows from Britain must be expected as a result.

However, the Government's response to this may well be to try to insulate the pound from the effect of any outflows by selling off some of the reserves.

This could be justified on the grounds that a switch from public to private sector holdings overseas is taking place.

In practice it would be difficult to distinguish between stock shifts of funds out of London because of exchange control abolition and other outflows.

The jump in Britain's EEC contributions and the steady growth in foreign-owned North Sea profits have turned 1978's invisible surplus of £2,207m into one of less than £500m this year, all of which was earned in the first three months.

For outgearing this deterioration, however, is the benefit of the visible trade balance from North Sea oil. The latest official estimates almost certainly underestimate Britain's likely oil riches next year and probably next year, too.

Even so they show a net contribution to the current account of £7,200m this year and £8,900m next year (at constant 1978 prices). The figure for 1980 will be lower because the real price of oil will then be expected to fall next year.

There is some confusion about the role of North Sea oil in bolstering the pound. The presence of oil means that it is possible to balance Britain's payments with a higher exchange rate.

In these days of oil-dominated foreign exchange markets it also means that sterling is likely to be supported by short-term currency inflows whenever there are fears of further oil price

Taking the surgeon's knife to Germany's lame duck

After a decade in which state aid for Europe's ailing industries has become the norm rather than the exception, West Germany's banks are about to demonstrate that in the Federal Republic capitalism is alive and, if not exactly well, can at least tackle its own problems.

The supervisory board of AEG-Telefunken, West Germany's second largest electrical concern, meets next Monday to decide on a new rescue plan intended to help cover losses anticipated for the year. The move will mainly affect the 160,000 small shareholders who have remained remarkably loyal to the group back to the midautumn of the past decade.

The 20 industrialists, bankers and trade unionists making up the board will be asked to approve management proposals that will involve sacrifices at all levels in a final attempt to solve the problems that have dogged the once proud company for most of the past decade.

But one powerful interest will not be represented at the meeting. Largely at the insistence of the banks, and despite pressure from the unions, the share will not be taking part in the rescue.

This attempt to demonstrate that capitalism can cure its own ills will be costly both in money terms and in terms of the number of jobs lost. The situation at AEG-Telefunken has become so serious that it is believed that only a substantial cash injection and radical surgery hold out any hopes of recovery.

A quick glance at the company's figures for the past 10 years gives a good idea of what has gone wrong. The group paid a dividend for 1973. Net losses since that year up to DM530m despite extraordinary gains from the steady sale of assets and a capital increase pushed through by the company's bankers in 1976 as part of an earlier rescue plan.

The past 10 years have seen a progressive weakening of the group's financial structure as a result of these losses. Shareholders' equity at the end of 1978 stood at DM1,245m. DM1m less than at the end of 1969, while world sales in the decade had risen to DM14,000m from DM6,940m.

Labilities have risen to DM5,720m from DM2,13m with bank borrowings advancing to DM3,35m from DM1,245m. Not surprisingly, AEG-Telefunken has paid out a cash injection of DM150m so long as the market values existing AEG shares at around DM37 as at present.

Carrying the biggest burden will be the Dresdner Bank, AEG-Telefunken's house bank, which is expected to subscribe to the new shares so producing a cash injection of DM930m.

This operation will leave secur in the bank's balance sheets as the new shares can hardly be valued at their subscription price of DM150 so long as the market values existing AEG shares at around DM37 as at present.

The unions in their turn will be asked to approve large-scale dismissals affecting probably 13,000 workers next year. The dismissals will probably be additional to natural wastage that had reduced the company's workforce over the 10 years.

The group's bankers and small shareholders are due to put their tribute through a complex reconstruction of the group's capital that will be submitted for approval next Monday.

A bitter-sweet argument

Sugar will be the rallying point for the next battle about farm policy between Britain and the rest of the European Economic Community.

The EEC has a large surplus of sugar which it cannot afford to maintain. But Britain is refusing to accept responsibility for the surplus because it is by far the largest importer in Europe. It insists on trying to increase self-sufficiency and buying supplies from outside Europe, which are often cheaper.

The sugar industry is not taking a unified stand on the issue. The two sides are the beer lobby, represented by the British Sugar Corporation, and the National Farmers' Union, and the tea lobby, represented by Tea & Lyle and the Commonwealth Sugar Exporters' Association.

Beer has the whole support of the British Government while cane is backing the efforts of the European Commission to cut sugar quotas to EEC growers and to make the Community obliged by treaty to import.

The corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agreed some years ago to base their case on the allegation that cane is a dangerous and unnatural weapon.

Tea & Lyle has given general welcome to the plans by the EEC Commission to cut sugar production in the Community.

That case has survived the change of Government and is supported strongly by officials at the ministry, including Mr Brian Hayes, the Permanent Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, the Agriculture Minister, and factory improvements and

in a position to carry through a programme of rationalization and restructuring.

But the history of the group's decline offers little encouragement. AEG-Telefunken seems to have developed a "reverse Midas touch" over the past decade whereby almost everything it has touched has turned to gold.

The biggest drain on its finances was the nuclear sector where design and operating problems with its boiling water reactors led to losses of DM1,700m. This excursion into large main frame computer making ended in failure. Even in traditional sectors such as electric light bulb making the company incurred losses accordingly. It sold its holding in Osram, the light bulb company, to its larger rival Siemens, which now enjoys a handsome profit from the firm.

AEG-Telefunken invented the pay television system, but has been unable to prevent the brain goods sector from another headache for the company's management. Similarly, white goods which are so ubiquitous in German kitchens contribute little in way of profit to the company.

Admittedly, the group has experienced bad luck, starting with the loss of a greater part of his assets through the division of Germany after the last war and culminating in 1977 in the terrorist murder of Jürgen Ponto, who as supervisory board chairman had just been the task of trying to turn the company round.

But over the years the management appears to have compounded the impact of bad luck by misjudging world economic developments. AEG-Telefunken's prosperity in the 1950s and 1960s was based very largely on the boom in the domestic economy. Export business was neglected and apparently no thought was given to the possibility of the Deutsche mark one day ceasing to be a cheap currency.

Thus at the end of the 1960s AEG-Telefunken was still investing in down market radio and record player factories which were soon to be exterminated through Far Eastern competition.

For more than two decades after the war AEG-Telefunken sought to expand at almost any price. Its capital resources became dangerously stretched.

A company might survive bad luck and even bad luck and management errors, but these two factors have combined with inadequate capitalization to bring one of the most important of German firms to the brink of collapse.

It is argued that with capital reconstruction and dismissals agreed the management will be

they do take proposals on these lines I shall reject them", he said.

The corporation claims that if EEC farm ministers accepted the plan in the next few months eight English sugar factories would have to close with the loss of 2,500 jobs. Mr John Becker, chief executive, said: "It is manifestly unfair to make Britain scapegoat for Europe's sugar problem.

The most severe European critics of the British beer industry say that this country has no business to grow any beer. As a member of the EEC it should be content to buy from other Community countries, especially as it contains most of the refining capacity needed for the cane which the Community is obliged by treaty to import.

The corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agreed some years ago to base their case on the allegation that cane is a dangerous and unnatural weapon.

Tea & Lyle, which has closed three of Britain's six cane refineries in the past three years, says that any further contraction of cane supplies would put 1,400 jobs at its Liverpool refinery at risk.

"Subsidies on exporting the EEC surplus cost the Community's taxpayers about £350m a year," the company says. The United Kingdom taxpayers' share of this burden is approaching 20 per cent. Tea & Lyle has given general welcome to the plans by the EEC Commission to cut sugar production in the Community.

Since the company refines almost half of the sugar consumed in Britain and more than a tenth of total Community consumption, its stance will seriously weaken the case which Mr Walker will present in Brussels on behalf of British farmers and their processors.

Hugh Clayton

CHARTERHALL LIMITED

Extracts from the Statement of Mr. Derek G. Williams, Chairman of Charterhall Limited, the U.K. based independent oil and mineral group to Members at the Annual General Meeting on 3rd November

Stock Exchange Prices **Rally continues**

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Nov 19. Dealings End, Dec 7. \$ Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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Really Dry Gin

Property

Have a flat in a country mansion

Those who would like to live in country surroundings—or at least in a small country town but find the prospect of coping with a complete house and garden a little daunting—are often attracted to small flats in larger converted houses.

Apart from reduced maintenance costs, such properties are often more luxurious than a small cottage with the same space and are less isolated.

Although a lot of conversion work has been going on in recent years, these properties are not common in the market, but occasionally they become available.

Two are for sale in the news courtyard of Idsworth

House, a large Victorian mansion built about 1870, at Idsworth, near Horndean, Hampshire. One has an entrance hall, a large sitting room and a combined kitchen and dining room downstairs, and two bedrooms. It has been modernized and is available at £39,950.

The other is similar but larger, with two reception rooms, three bedrooms and extensive cellars. This is available either unmodernized at £35,000, or modernized at £49,500. Both flats have the use of part of the gardens of Idsworth house at an annual maintenance cost of £125. The agents are Weller Eggar, Petersfield.

An example of the same kind of property is provided by a flat in Mulberry House, Fordingbridge, also in Hampshire; a fine Georgian vicarage which was converted into four flats in 1975.

Although a first-floor flat, it includes an imposing ground floor entrance hall, which was the original main entrance of the building. There is a large living room more than 30ft long, and

two bedrooms. On the second floor are three attic rooms which could be converted into bedrooms. Here, too, there is the use of gardens, the upkeep of which, with other maintenance, is shared with other flat owners. A price of £32,500 is being asked for a lease of just over 195 years at ground rent of £40 a year. The agents are Pearson, Salisbury.

The Basingstoke office of the same agents is dealing with the sale of an interesting country house known as Webbs Farmhouse at Mapledurwell, also in Hampshire. Thought to date from about 1550, with later additions, it has rendered walls and a tiled roof and is notable for unusually good ceiling heights for its period.

Inside, there is some good exposed timbering and open fireplaces, and it includes two reception rooms, a large combined kitchen and breakfast room, three main bedrooms, and two further bedrooms on the second floor. The whole property runs to about half an acre, but there is the possibility of further land being available. Offers of about £115,000 are being asked.

The Old House, Langham, near Colchester, Essex, is believed to date from Elizabethan times. It is built of lath and plaster, rendered and painted white, under a peg-tiled roof. It was formed from two cottages 13 years ago.

Among the more notable features are many exposed timbers and a galleried reception hall with some original decorated plaster panels. Both the main reception rooms have inglenooks. Besides this, there are four bedrooms, a study, a small sitting room and two bathrooms. Gardens and grounds run to about seven acres, much of which is a fenced paddock, and there is a swimming pool and changing room. The property is for sale at about £110,000.

Hailey Manor, near Witney, Oxfordshire, is very

much in the luxury class. This is a fine Georgian manor house with all the spaciousness of its period. The accommodation includes four main reception rooms, a study, two main bedroom suites, three main bedrooms and three secondary bedrooms.

The gardens are floodlit from control panels on the ground and first floors and the greater part of the ground floor is wired for stereo. Included in this link-up is the swimming pool area which also has changing rooms and a sauna.

Outbuildings include seven loose boxes and a modern barn. The total area of the property is about 10 acres, in which there are three raised paddocks. Offers in the region of £220,000 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, Cirencester.

More realistic for the average buyer is Lower Farmhouse, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, a nineteenth century farmhouse standing amid miles of open farmland and from which only one other house is in sight.

It has a combined conservatory and entrance hall, two main reception rooms, a

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am For Schools: Colleges. 9.00 Location Britain (Liverpool). 9.25 Physical Science. 9.47 Science All Around (paper). 10.10 Merry-go-round. 10.15 Scene (bridge). 10.30 (sugar). 11.35 Come to Your Senses. Closedown at 12.10 pm.

12.45 News and weather.

1.00 Fiddie Mill at One includes Tom Biro's feature on the cinema. Closedown at 2.00.

2.15 For Schools: Colleges. 2.15 Music Time (Christmas). 2.40 It's Your Choice. Both repeats. Closedown at 3.35.

3.35 Play School: the story of The Dragon who Couldn't Make Fire.

4.20 Deputy Dawg: cartoon. Law and Disorder (r).

4.25 Jackanory: Peter Barkworth reads from Abigail Island to William Shatner.

4.40 Screen Test: movie quiz. Contestants are St Dunstan's Council.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School. Same as BBC 1, 3.35. Closedown at 11.25.

4.25 Open University. 4.35 S101 Preparatory Maths. 4.40 Technical Lit. 5.05 The First Years of Life. 5.30 The first part of the book Sun and Oliver try to erect a radio serial on the roof. Contains the classic closing sequence with the crushed car.

5.55 Film: Keep Fit. (1937) Another in the George Formby series. The Lancashire comedian is involved with gangsters and a pet dog.

7.15 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: 9.30 Making a Living (consumer protection); 9.52 Watch Your Language; 10.00 Good Health; 10.26 French (in place); 10.45 The Living Body; 11.05 Music Room; 11.30 Reading and Doing (Christmas); 11.45 Picture Box.

12.00 Animal Crackers: music and stories for the young.

12.10 pm Rainbow: stable companion to Animal Crackers.

12.30 The Sultans: Australian serial. Today, news of a death.

1.00 News: with Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames News: with Roba Housman.

1.30 Armchair Thriller: Quiller as a New Zealand: a film based on the Antonia Fraser book about dirty work at a convent (r).

2.00 After Noon Plus: one of the items is about the disintegration of marriages.

4.25 London Belongs to Me: repeat of this series based on the Norman Collins book. Today: Percy goes on trial for murder.

4.45 Looks Familiar: music hall nostalgic quiz conducted by Denis Norden. Tony Curtis, Elaine Stritch, Michael Parkinson.

4.55 Project UFO: humans are told to deny what they saw in the skies.

5.15 Mr and Mrs: Matrimonial quiz game, conducted by Derek Bayley. 5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News.

6.25 Help! Southwark Council's campaign to remind private

School, Glasshouse and the Grammar School, Shaftesbury.

5.05 John Craven's Newsround: focused on young viewers.

5.10 Blue Peter.

5.35 Ivar the Engine story. The Red Engine. (r).

5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall.

5.55 Nationwide: the stories behind the headlines.

6.55 Tomorrow's World: items on a radio station, a computer-aided Identikit and Judith Hann on a helicopter crash.

7.28 Top of the Pops: pop music show.

7.55 Blankety Blank: intellectually undemanding quiz game.

8.30 The Dawson Watch: in the second of his comedy series, the comedian looks at the nation's health.

9.00 Party Political Broadcast: on behalf of the Labour Party.

9.10 News: with Angela Rippon.

9.35 Play for Today: A Hole in the Head.

7.25 Newsweek: Paymasters of Europe? Britain's complaint that it is paying too much into the EEC budget is seen against a wider background (see Personal Choice).

7.30 The World at One. 7.45 The Archers.

7.55 Ivar the Engine story. The Red Engine. (r).

8.00 Party Political Broadcast: on behalf of the Labour Party.

8.10 News: with Angela Rippon.

8.35 Play for Today: A Hole in the Head.

WATERSIDE WORKERS

9.10 Kelly Moncrieff: made-in-Britain comedy series with this American funny man.

9.40 Diamonds in the Sky: Travelling for Fun. Documentary about how air services have boosted tourism.

10.30 Richard Silcox: The clever entertainer will be celebrating his 21st birthday reading for an honorary degree at London University. Also, songs from Jeep, a pop group of four girls.

10.55 News and weather.

11.10 Poetry: Gary Watson reads another two of the entries for this year's National Poetry Competition. Closedown at 11.30.

12.00 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

12.15 News and weather.

12.30 The Streets of San Francisco: crime series with Karl Malden.

12.45 am What the Papers Say: presented by Suzanne Lowry of The Observer.

12.55 Close: poetry readings, by Roy Budd.

Tonight, he is in South Wales, seeing if his brother is good enough to turn professional.

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